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HISTORY
OF
VAN WERT COUNTY, OHIO
AND
REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS

EDITED AND COMPILED BY
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VAN WERT, OHIO

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"History is Philosophy Teaching by Examples."

PUBLISHED BY
RICHMOND & ARNOLD
GEORGE RICHMOND, C. R. ARNOLD
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
1906

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geles, California, as well as exchanges at Santa Barbara, Santa Ana, Riverside, Redlands, San Bernardino, Pasadena and Hollywood, as well as the long distance telephone lines to connect all the exchanges in Southern California. After the completion of the plant at Los Angeles, he was made general manager of the exchange, which was then and is at this time the largest independent (non-Bell telephone exchange in the United States, having at this time 22,000 telephones. The Empire Construction Company having finished its work in the southern part of the State, it ceased operations July 1, 1905, and Mr. Van Liew resigned as general manager of the Home Telephone Company. January 1, 1906, he accepted the position of auditor and treasurer of the Empire Construction Company, of California, organized for the purpose of building telephone exchanges in San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Fresno and surrounding towns; the work of construction in Oakland has already commenced.

John Van Liew has been a busy man all his life and has accomplished what few men would have undertaken. Mr. Van Liew was married at Larwill, Indiana, to Emma A. Robinson, daughter of S. F. and Mary Robinson. To this union were born two daughters—Lou E. and Winifred. Mr. Van Liew is a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Mystic Shrine.

DON. EDWARD C. STITZ, attorney-at-law at Van Wert, formerly mayor of the city and a man of education and influence, was born October 14, 1868, at Dayton, Ohio, and is a son of August and Susan (Betcher) Stitz. His parents removed from Dayton to Van Wert County in 1871. His father followed the trade of shoe-

maker. The children of the family were three in number.

As Mr. Stitz was so young when he came to Van Wert County he may almost be considered a native, for here he was reared from infancy and was educated at Van Wert, graduating from its High school. In 1889 he entered the office of Alexander & Darnell, with whom he read law. He was admitted to the bar June 4, 1891, and is now in active practice in this city. He has served as city solicitor and also as mayor, but the duties of his practice now absorb all of his time, and the results have earned him a high standing as a member of the bar of Van Wert County.

On June 2, 1897, Mr. Stitz was married to Lucy M. Jackson, a daughter of James M. Jackson, deceased, and four children have been born to this union—Suzane, Dona, Kenneth and Miriam. Mr. and Mrs. Stitz are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and they reside in a beautiful home at Euclid and Forest avenues. In the prosecution of his professional work Mr. Stitz occupies commodious offices at No. 111½ East Main street. Politically he is identified with the Republican party and fraternally belongs to the Odd Fellows (of which he is past grand and past chief patriarch) and to the Modern Brotherhood of America.

A. GIFFIN, president of the Van Wert County Agricultural Society and a prominent citizen of Hoaglin township, where he owns a fine farm of 110 acres, situated in section 29, was born in Miami County, Ohio, November 26, 1850, and is a son of William and Martha (McKee) Giffin.

The father of Mr. Giffin removed with his

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GEORGE H. MARSH

family from Miami County to Van Wert County in 1858, and settled in York township. In 1861 he located in Hoaglin township, settling on section 32 and living on his property there until his death in June, 1879. He served as surveyor of Van Wert County for two terms and had previously held a similar office in Miami County. In politics he was a Republican and in religious observance, a Presbyterian. Of his children, the following survive: John of Logansport, Indiana; Elizabeth, wife of James Earhart, residing near Portland, Oregon; Paulina, widow of Adam Rodabaugh, of Cass County, Indiana; Reuben T., of Wabash County, Indiana; David J., of Hoaglin township; A. A.; Isaac N., of Van Wert; Winfield S., of Hoaglin township; and Edward L., of Loudon County, Tennessee.

A. A. Giffin was reared and educated in Van Wert County. In young manhood he learned the carpenter's trade and resided for four years in Putnam County, engaged in the manufacture of drain tile, at Ottawa, prior to 1882, when he settled on his present farm, where he has been engaged in farming and stock-raising ever since. His fine estate is known as the "North View Farm" and in location, productiveness and improvements it stands second to none in the northern section of the county. In 1901 Mr. Giffin erected his beautiful modern residence, doing much of the work himself, thus insuring its substantial character. This model rural home is modern in every particular, among other up-to-date improvements being a system of hot-air heating, which is entirely satisfactory, while it is lighted by acetylene gas. It is not often that farmers can enjoy the substantial comforts of both city and country life at the same time, but Mr. Giffin has solved the problem in the erection and arrangement of his homestead residence.

On January 13, 1875, Mr. Giffin was married to Elizabeth J. Hattery, who was born in Van Wert County and is a daughter of the late Nathaniel Hattery, an early settler in Hoaglin township. Mr. and Mrs. Giffin have had three children, viz.: Edward P. and Martha E., both deceased; and Hermia A. The family belong to the Presbyterian Church.

Politically Mr. Giffin is a Republican, but is liberal in his views and on occasion supports the man rather than the party. He has served as assessor of Hoaglin township: for a number of years has been a leading member of the Van Wert County Agricultural Society, and on January 6, 1906, was elected its president. Mr. Giffin is a man of progressive agricultural ideas, and it is generally conceded that the choice was a wise one. As a farmer he has been deeply concerned in all movements looking toward the improvement of agricultural conditions, and belongs to Pleasant Grange, No. 399, Patrons of Husbandry, of Pleasant township. He is also a member of Alpha Lodge, No. 1, Home Guards of America.

In 1892 the Victor Horse Breeding Company was organized in Van Wert County, its object being the improvement of the horse stock of this locality, and Mr. Giffin has been secretary of the organization since its founding. In its membership are represented several of the important farming interests of this section, and its objects and results are eminently practical.



GEORGE H. MARSH, capitalist and banker, one of the leading men of Van Wert for many years, has been identified with many successful business organizations in this and other States, and is one of the best-known financiers in Northwestern Ohio. He comes of New

England ancestry and of Ohio pioneers. He was born in Connecticut, on Christmas Day of 1833 and is a son of George and Caroline (Gilbert) Marsh.

James Marsh, the paternal grandfather, was also a native of Connecticut, and remained in that State throughout his long life, following agricultural pursuits during the years of his active life. His son George, the father of our subject, was born in the same State; learned the trade of clock-making and doubtless did much to give popularity to what were known in that day as "Yankee clocks." Indeed he is credited with making the first brass clock in the United States. During his earlier years, according to the custom of the time, he traveled through the country selling the products of his skill, and later formed a partnership with William L. Gilbert, who, after Mr. Marsh's removal to Ohio in 1833, continued in the business and became the largest clock manufacturer in New England.

On his first visit Mr. Marsh remained but a short time in Ohio, but returned in 1833 and settled at Athens, later removing to Dayton. He bought and sold lands and also engaged in clock-making; but in 1841 his manufactory was burned and he removed to Bond County, Illinois, where he followed stock farming until 1843. He owned large tracts of land in Ohio, which, by this time, had greatly enhanced in value, and shortly afterward he came to Van Wert County, bringing his family to the town of Van Wert in 1847. In the following year he removed to the southern part of the State, where he owned property, and died at Marshfield in 1862. In partnership with other capitalists he owned land in a number of counties. Mr. Marsh married Caroline Gilbert at Litchfield, Connecticut, and they had five children, the mother dying in 1848.

George H. Marsh was 13 years of age when

his parents came to Van Wert. He had attended school at Farmington and later returned there for added educational advantages; and prior to his 16th year secured collegiate training at Athens, Ohio. When the surveyors were at work on the Marietta & Cincinnati Railroad, the youth secured a position with them as assistant and continued with them for several months, afterward, for a short time becoming a clerk in a mercantile establishment at Van Wert. He doubtless inherited an inclination toward machinery, and when he entered the railroad shops at Crestline showed remarkable aptitude in his work as clerk to the master mechanic. He continued with the company in the same capacity until the shops were removed to Fort Wayne, when he entered the establishment as a mechanic.

Until 1871 Mr. Marsh was variously engaged—in a cotton warehouse in Louisiana, in a livery business at Van Wert, in farming and stock dealing, and as general manager of the Eagle Stave Works at Van Wert. After holding this last named position for two years, he became proprietor, and not only enlarged the plant, but became interested in the stave works at Belmore, Latta and Geneva. Eventually he was the largest stave manufacturer in the United States, in addition to being connected with the great cooperage supply house at Scott, Ohio. For a number of years he has been active in banking circles, and at one time was financially concerned in 15 national banks in Ohio and other States. He has been president of the Lima Locomotive & Machine Company, the Lima Steel works, and the wholesale boot and shoe house of Ainsworth, Wickenheiser & Company, of Toledo; owns thousands of acres of land in various portions of the State; is one of the owners of the First National Bank of Van Wert and sole proprietor of the Marsh Hotel—conceded to be the finest hostelry in

Van Wert County. All of these large and important interests have been managed with great success, as Mr. Marsh is a thorough man of business, well qualified—both naturally and through years of experience—to conduct and develop such enterprises. But all of his activities are not absorbed by business cares. Travel and social life claim his leisure; philanthropy finds in him a friend, and in him his fellow-citizens recognize one whose attention can invariably be secured for any laudable public-spirited movement.

On November 26, 1862, Mr. Marsh was married to Hilinda Vance, who was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, June 13, 1844. They have one daughter, Katie, who is the wife of Arthur L. Clymer, of Van Wert. Mrs. Marsh is a member of the First Presbyterian Church. Fraternally Mr. Marsh is in affiliation with the Blue Lodge, F. & A. M., of Van Wert, and is a 32nd degree Mason. His portrait accompanies this sketch.



WILLIAM IRA REED, one of the county commissioners of Van Wert County, as well as a leading farmer of Pleasant township, where he has carried on extensive agricultural operations for a number of years, was born in Ashland County, Ohio, September 8, 1851, and is a son of Jacob and Mary (Strickland) Reed. Mr. Reed received his education in the public schools of Ashland County and at the age of 21 years, with his young bride, removed to Tully township, Van Wert County, and engaged in farming for 22 years on a place he had purchased. In 1895 he fixed upon his present place of residence.

Mr. Reed was reared on a farm, his life has been devoted to agriculture, and as a pro-

gressive and successful farmer he is favorably known throughout the county. He has also been prominent in public life, while residing in Tully township, having served as township trustee and as justice of the peace. Since 1902 he has been one of the county commissioners, having been elected to that office by a majority of 126 votes. Since Mr. Reed became a member of the board he has been instrumental in bringing about many public improvements and necessary reforms.

On February 11, 1873, Mr. Reed was united in marriage with Fannie B. Staman, who is a daughter of Jacob Staman, a well-known farmer and miller of Ashland County, and they have four children, as follows: Olin O., residing at home, who is engaged in the poultry business; Francis E., a graduate of the Ohio Medical University, of Columbus, who is a practicing physician in Van Wert; Pearl, a milliner of Van Wert; and Millie, wife of Clark Good, a prominent attorney of Van Wert.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically Mr. Reed is a Democrat, socially an Odd Fellow. Their hospitable home in Pleasant township is frequently the scene of family and friendly gatherings, for both Mr. Reed and wife are very well known and highly esteemed.



ADAM GREULACH was born in Germany October 4, 1846, and died at the family home in Pleasant township, Van Wert County, August 8, 1899. He received his education in the schools of the fatherland and at the age of 15 accompanied his parents, Peter and Magdalena (Wagen) Greulach, to this country, coming at once to Ohio and locating in Pleasant town-

ship, on the farm which is now the home of his widow. The remainder of his life was passed in this locality, where he engaged in farming, and he became noted for his thrift and industry, his integrity and uprightness. A hard working man and a good manager, he succeeded in accumulating considerable property, which was left to his wife and children with the legacy of a good name. For some two years after marriage he resided in Harrison township, but in 1873 located on the Greulach homestead, than which few country residences are better known in Van Wert County.

Mr. Greulach was married February 2, 1871, to Margaret Wendel, who was born in Germany February 20, 1846, being a daughter of Peter and Mary E. (Hofmann) Wendel. At the age of six years she came to America with her parents, who located in Harrison township, Van Wert County, Ohio, and it was there Mrs. Greulach received her education and developed into womanhood. She is a lady of pleasing personality, who commands the respect and esteem of all who know her, and her friends are legion. To Mr. and Mrs. Greulach were born six children, namely: Jacob, of Pleasant township; Emma P., wife of Charles Schaadt, of Willshire township; John A., superintendent of schools at Convoy; Henry, of Pleasant township; Philip, deceased and Martin, of Pleasant township. Mr. Greulach was a Democrat in politics, and in religion a member of the German Evangelical Association, with which his widow is also identified.

JOSEPH McMILLEN, a representative business citizen of Van Wert, and a partner in the McMillen Grain Company—which operates six elevators and owns the largest mill in this section—is a native of Ohio, born in Allen County, July 15,


1855. He is a son of James J. and Harriet (Gilliland) McMillen. In the founding of the American branch, the McMillen family came from Ireland to Pennsylvania, and many of its members participated in the Revolutionary War. The paternal grandfather of Joseph McMillen was born December 22, 1794, and in 1830 emigrated to Knox County, Ohio, where he entered a tract of 200 acres of land. He lived there until 1842 when he removed to Allen County, where he died in March, 1880. James J. McMillen, father of Joseph, was more liberally educated than many youths of his time, completing his course in the Delaware (Ohio) University and being for some years a successful teacher. In 1854 he married Harriet Gilliland, a member of one of the prominent families of Van Wert County, and they had 10 children, the survivors being: Joseph, of this sketch; Alice, widow of M. D. Mann, of Van Wert; Alonzo B., of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Ida, wife of Thomas Pollock, of Middlepoint, Ohio; Charles S., of Woodburn, Indiana; Albert and Delbert (twins), of Van Wert County; and Hattie, wife of Edward Carlo, of Van Wert.

In 1852 James J. McMillen engaged in a general mercantile business at Elida, Ohio, to which, in 1856, he added grain and produce, and in 1858 he further increased his responsibilities by the purchase of 60 acres of land in Allen County, on which he began farming and the raising of stock. By a successful combination of these various interests he became one of the substantial men of this part of Van Wert County. He was also a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity and a staunch Democrat. His death occurred October 1, 1897.

Joseph McMillen was educated in the common schools, and throughout most of his business life, has been identified with the grain business, although he is also a practical farmer

and the owner of valuable property. In 1893 he engaged more extensively in the grain business, and in 1901 built the present elevator in Van Wert, at a cost of \$10,000, it being the equal in capacity of any in this section. In connection with it and in partnership with his son, Dale W., Mr. McMillen operates six elevators in Paulding and Van Wert counties, giving employment to a number of people.

Mr. McMillen's wife was formerly Jennie Willmore, a daughter of J. H. Willmore, of Virginia. They have six children, as follows: Dale W., who married Agnes Stewart, of Battle Creek, Michigan, and resides at Grover Hill, Ohio—they have one child, Stewart W.; Anna Bernice, wife of C. S. Fergus, D. D. S., of Van Wert; Nellie B., wife of Dr. R. R. Richison, of Van Wert, and the mother of one daughter—Pauline; Louis G., Ralph Otis and Geraldine, all living at home. Mr. and Mrs. McMillen are members of the Presbyterian Church. Politically he is a Democrat. Fraternally he is a Mason. The handsome family residence is situated in West Main street.

AMES R. TILLOTSON, M. D., a rising young physician of Delphos, who has already won the confidence of the people and the respect and esteem of the medical fraternity, is certain to make his way to the very top of his profession, if his past record is a criterion by which we may judge his future. His grandfather, Elkanah Tillotson, came from Brooklyn, New York, to Adams County, Ohio, where the father of our subject still resides. Dr. Tillotson was born in Dunbarton, that county, November 26, 1877, and is one of four children, all of whom except our subject, settled down near the old home in Manchester, Ohio. His parents are John W. and Lucinda D. (Jobe) Tillotson.

His brother, Granville M., was born April 28, 1874, and died at Manchester December 27, 1903. Both his sisters are living, Lucy being the wife of C. C. Smalley and Ella, the wife of Ephraim P. Martin.

James R. Tillotson was ambitious to obtain a superior education and, after leaving the public school, entered the normal school of Adams County and later the National Normal University at Lebanon. Having decided to enter the medical profession, he taught school to obtain the money to pursue his studies. His winters were devoted to teaching while in the summer he attended college. In 1898 he entered the Ohio Northern University at Ada, graduating in the class of 1900. He then accepted a position as teacher in the public schools of Van Wert. After teaching here for one year, he entered the University of Louisville, Kentucky, and was there two years. Another year was spent in the medical department of the University of Cincinnati before he felt justified in entering upon the active career for which he was preparing himself so carefully.

Dr. Tillotson first practiced for a few months in Sardinia, Brown County, Ohio, in partnership with a fellow-townsmen, Dr. John N. Ellison. On September 1, 1904, he located in Delphos and was associated with Dr. Charles W. Moots, who withdrew from the partnership at the expiration of the first year and opened an office at Toledo. Dr. Tillotson has since been alone, and has been successful in building up one of the best practices in this section. His unblemished character, affable and prepossessing manner, and absorption in his chosen work, have gained for him the good opinion of all with whom he has come in contact, and given him an entrance to the best homes in the city. Fraternally he is connected with the Masonic order.

THOMAS P. JOHNSON, a prominent resident of Van Wert, the owner of a fine farm of 160 acres in section 21, Hoaglin township, and a veteran of the great Civil war, is a native of this State. He was born in Allen County, Ohio, February 4, 1841, and is a son of Thomas Xenophon and Mary F. (McClure) Johnson.

The father of Mr. Johnson was born in Scott County and the mother in Harrison County, Kentucky. In 1829 they moved to Champaign County, Ohio, and from there, in 1839, they moved to Allen County, where they settled in the woods as pioneers. Their land was in Bath township, where Samuel McClure, our subject's uncle, had been the first settler. He found the Indians trustful and kind, and they assisted him in the building of his cabin. As far as our records reveal, this family had no troubles with the aborigines.

Thomas P. Johnson was reared on his father's farm in Bath township. His educational opportunities were the best the locality afforded during his boyhood; but as he grew older, he enjoyed instruction in the Lima High School. After completing his education, he taught school for 15 winters through Allen and Van Wert counties, and in this way became known over a wide extent of country. He recalls many of the warm friends of those days and many interesting experiences.

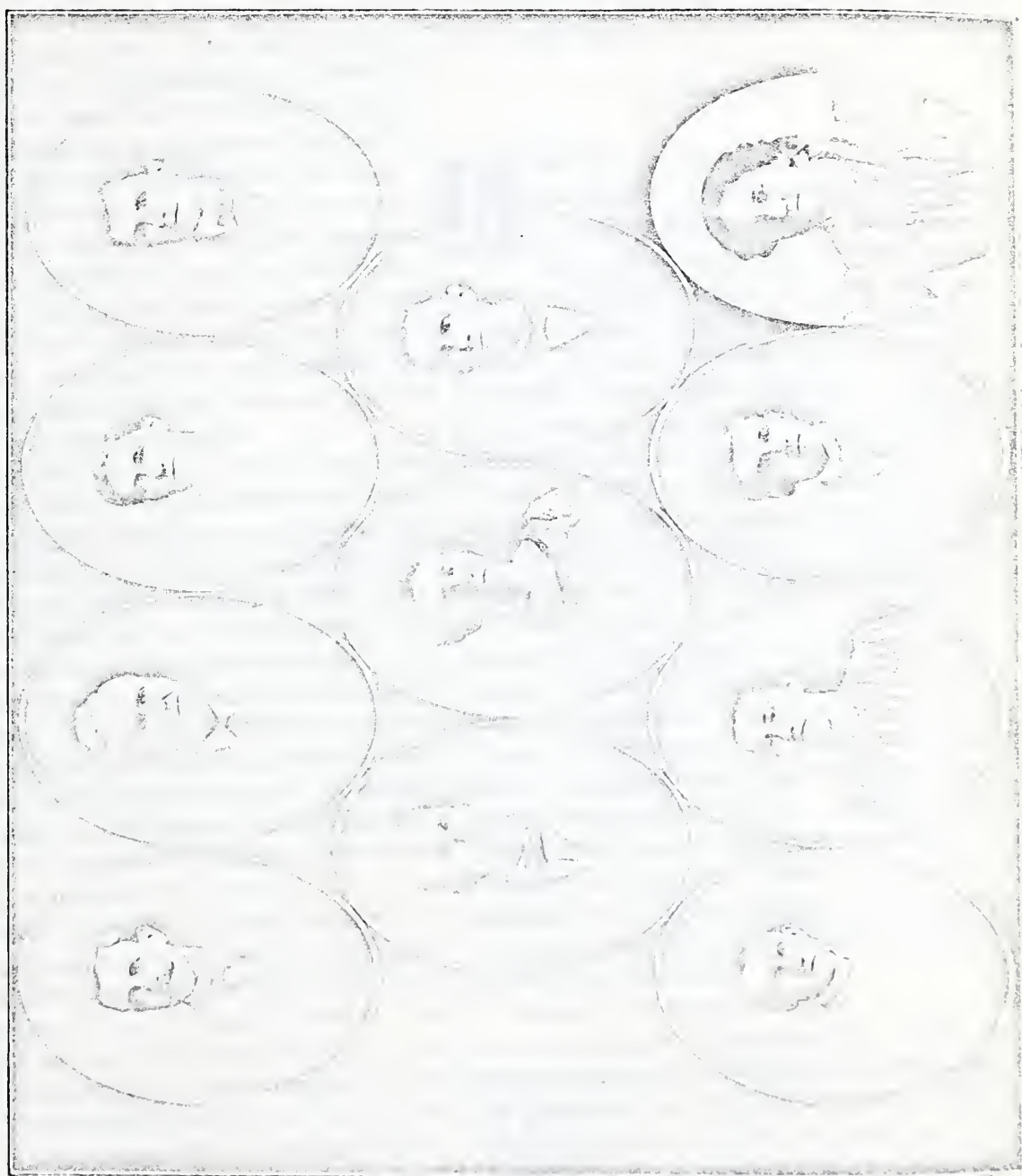
Among the very first to respond to the call for troops at the opening of the Civil war which, to the dismay of the North, dragged its weary length over years of suffering and death, was Thomas P. Johnson, who came forward with his life in his hand, leaving behind him the quiet school-room and his hopes of higher literary training. On April 22, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, 20th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and with his loyal companions was hurried to Virginia, where the almost raw recruits

were put to guarding railroads. During this first enlistment of three months duration, Mr. Johnson fought in his first battle, that at Carrick's Ford, Virginia, and became a seasoned soldier. He served out his time, and then returned to Bath township. Mr. Johnson re-entered the army on May 2, 1864, enlisting in Company B, 151st Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., for 100 days, but served for a considerably longer period, during which time he was commander of a brigade of transportation at Washington, D. C. Again he was honorably discharged, and again returned to peaceful pursuits; but when another call came for troops, he again responded for the third time, enlisting on September 8, 1864, in Company A, 180th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf.

The regiment to which his company was attached became a part of the 23rd Army Corps, under command of General Schofield. During this term of service Mr. Johnson participated in the battle of Wise's Forks at Kingston, North Carolina, and in numerous very serious skirmishes and hot engagements. Good fortune attended him, and although he had thrice enlisted in the service of his country, and had been exposed in company with others of his command, he was able to return home uninjured. He was honorably discharged at Columbus, on July 25, 1865, the regiment having been mustered out at Charlotte, North Carolina, on July 12, 1865.

Mr. Johnson came to Van Wert County in 1865, and two years later secured possession of the 160 acres of land in Hoaglin township, which he still owns. At that time it was but a wild tract, still in its virgin state. Mr. Johnson immediately commenced its clearing and development and now, almost 40 years later, it is one of the most valuable properties in the county.

On November 15, 1874, Mr. Johnson was



united in marriage with Jennie M. Ford, who was born in Champaign County, Ohio, and died on August 10, 1875. On July 15, 1877, Mr. Johnson was married to Mary A. Russell, who was born December 12, 1844, in Licking County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Daniel A. and Fanny (Townsend) Russell. Mr. Russell was a native of Ohio, but his father was born in New Hampshire of New England stock. Mrs. Russell was born in New York. When Mrs. Johnson was seven years old, her parents moved to Allen County from Licking County, and were very early settlers in Jackson township, where they became respected residents and substantial people.

In 1878 Mr. and Mrs. Johnson removed to Bluffton, Ohio, where he entered into business and became a very prominent citizen. The esteem in which he was held was evidenced by his election as mayor. During a part of his residence at Bluffton, he was city engineer. For a time he served as assessor of Richland township, Allen County, being a man whose qualifications for office as well as sterling character in every relation of life have commanded the recognition of his fellow-citizens. Politically, Mr. Johnson is a Democrat, and during four years of his residence in Hoaglin township he served as a justice of the peace.

For some years after leaving Bluffton, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson lived on the farm in Hoaglin township; later they settled at Van Wert. They are members of the Christian Church at Van Wert and are leaders in its activities.

Mr. Johnson is a popular member of the W. C. Scott Post No. 100, G. A. R., of Van Wert. In large measure he is a self-made man. Early in life he determined to possess a good education and worked hard for the means to procure it. Although public events brought about a possible change in his aspiration, he


has shown the same determination to succeed in whatever he undertook, which marked him in his early youth.

ROBERT A. GAMBLE resides on a farm of 80 acres in section 36, Ridge township, and has been a resident of the township since his seventh year, when his parents, George W. and Martha (Davis) Gamble, located in the township named. He was born September 26, 1842, in Carroll County, Ohio, both of his parents being natives of Ireland. George W. Gamble the father, came to America with his parents, when but a child, and lived in Carroll County, where he was educated, grew to manhood and was married to Martha Davis. A large family blessed their union, but only the following five are living: Robert A.; Amor L., a resident of Spencerville, Ohio; Sarah J., wife of Charles Shank of Detroit, Michigan; George P., a resident of Middlepoint; and Eva L., wife of Charles C. McMillen, of Ridge township. George W. Gamble was trustee of Ridge township for some years. He was a soldier of the Civil war for three years, being a member of Company A, 99th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and the oldest man in the regiment. He died in February, 1892, having reached the good old age of almost 80 years.

Robert A. Gamble has always devoted his life to farming in Ridge township, where he grew to manhood and acquired his education. On September 22, 1864, he enlisted in Company H, 15th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and was assigned to the commissary department; his entire service was less than one year. On September 6, 1866, he was joined in marriage to Fannie Gipe, who was born in Richland Coun-

ty, Ohio, December 25, 1839. Her parents, Samuel and Martha (Harnley) Gipe, were natives of Pennsylvania and resided in Richland County, Ohio, until about 1850, when they moved to Ridge township, Van Wert County. Of the large family of children born to them, nine are living, viz.: Fannie, wife of Robert A. Gamble; Catherine (Mrs. W. L. McClure), of Argos, Indiana; Amos, a resident of Wabash, Indiana; Reuben L., of Paulding, Ohio; Amanda, widow of L. W. Bethards and a resident of Belleville, Kansas; Harriet, wife of Erwin Edson, of Portland, Missouri; Emanuel C., of Chicago; Lonvina, of California; and Mary E., wife of Samuel Burden, of Van Wert.


Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Gamble are the parents of nine children, the eight living being: Amanda E., wife of P. V. Sheley, of Middlepoint; Alpha O., of Lima; Samuel W., of Pleasant township; Harvey L., of Ridge township; Amos F. of York township; David C., of Van Wert; John E., of Elwood, Indiana; and Emma J., wife of Joseph Sterling, of Jackson township; Cora A., a young lady of 18 years, died on the 30th of June, 1899. Mr. Gamble is a member of the G. A. R. post and also of the tent of the Improved Order of Red Men at Middlepoint. A picture of the family of our subject accompanies this sketch, being presented on a foregoing page.

 HABLES A. LEASENHOFF, who is a leading dealer in staple and fancy groceries at Ohio City, is one of the city's progressive business men, being interested in a number of important enterprises. He was born at Miamisburg, Montgomery County, Ohio, in 1864, and is a son of the late Egratz Leasenhoff, whose wife Jane was a native of France. The father was

born in Germany. From Montgomery County he moved to Van Wert County, where he was the first miller to operate the City Mills, of which he was long the superintendent and prominent in his special industrial line.

Charles A. Leasenhoff was reared and educated in Van Wert County, and then learned the baking business, at which he was engaged in Van Wert until 1889, when he moved to Ohio City and established a bakery, which he successfully conducted for 15 years. In 1903 he sold the establishment and since then has been engaged in the grocery business. To accommodate his large and varied stock he erected his present handsome two-story brick block, which has a frontage of 44 feet and a depth of 133 feet. It is well equipped with modern conveniences and the upper story is suitably arranged and fitted up for residence purposes. Mr. Leasenhoff is also a director in the Farmers' Bank of Ohio City and is interested in the Liberty Oil Company, his many business interests and his continued public spirit making him one of the city's most prominent residents.

In February, 1890, Mr. Leasenhoff was married to Lottie Gephart, who was born in Auglaize County, Ohio, and they have one daughter, Josephine. Mr. Leasenhoff is a member of the Catholic Church. In fraternal circles he is a Mason and a Knight of Pythias.

 ATHIAS FORNEFELD, manufacturer of drain tile, is one of the leading business men of Washington township, and resides on his farm located in section 33. He was born in Marion township, Allen County, Ohio, June 30, 1855, being the only child of Henry W. and Mary Fornefeld, natives of Westphalia

and Hanover, Germany, respectively, but who were married in Delphos, Ohio. Henry W. Fornefeld spent the greater portion of his life in farming and was one of the pioneer settlers of the locality near Delphos, where he purchased and cultivated a farm of 130 acres. His death took place in 1890; his wife died in 1886.

Mathias Fornefeld was reared and received a common-school education in Allen County, remaining at home and assisting his father with the work on the farm until he was 23 years of age, when he moved to Van Wert County. Married in Allen County, in 1878, to Anna Stippich, daughter of Joseph Stippich, his first year in Van Wert County was spent in general work, after which he cleared the land which belonged to his wife. At first he built a house of round logs, which the young couple occupied until January 4, 1884, when it was destroyed by fire, but he immediately erected the house which the family now occupy, and to which he has since made many additions and improvements. In 1892 he became associated with John Mueller in the manufacture of drain tile, which partnership continued for five years, when Mr. Fornefeld sold his interest in the business to his partner and retired to his farm. After farming for two years, he built in 1889 his present tile mill. He has installed an Anger tile machine, a clay crusher and other machinery, and has a capacity per season of about 25 kiln of tile of various sizes. Mr. Fornefeld employs one man to operate the mill, who furnishes his own assistants, most of the product being sold from his yard; the mill is kept running at its full capacity.

Mr. and Mrs. Fornefeld have nine children, all living, namely: Mathias J., who married Louise Sandellbach and lives in Delphos, the father of two children; Anna (Mrs.

Joseph Kimmet); Lizzie; Verrona M.; Mary; Frances; Joseph; Alice and Rosa. Mr. and Mrs. Fornefeld are members of St. John's Catholic Church at Delphos, and he is a member of St. Joseph's Society. He is a man of influence, having served one term as supervisor of Washington township.

JOHN SEMER owns a well-kept farm of 40 acres in section 33, Jackson township, and has been so busily engaged in the faithful discharge of the various duties the public has placed upon him, that few men are more widely or more favorably known within the confines of the county. He was born February 3, 1847, and is a native of the State of Pennsylvania, as were his parents, John H. and Catherine (Matz) Semer.

In 1851, the elder Semer and his family moved to Fairfield County, whence, a year later, they came to Van Wert County and settled in section 28, Jackson township. One of the few white settlers of that wild region, John H. Semer at once became a leader among his fellows, and used his influence for the advancement of the new settlement. It was at his suggestion that the new township—the last one formed in the county—was named in honor of that remarkable man, Andrew Jackson. He was treasurer of the township for a time, but his career of usefulness was cut short by death in 1862. His wife survived him many years, passing away March 20, 1895. They were the parents of 10 children, seven of whom are now living, viz.: Henry, of Haviland; John; Catherine, widow of Joseph Osenga, of Putnam County; Emma, wife of George Hedrick, of Michigan; Polly, wife of Vincent Ladd, of Paulding County; Allen, of Alverton, Ohio; and Cassie, wife of William

Dunlap, of Montana, Ohio. William, Lydia and Edward are deceased.

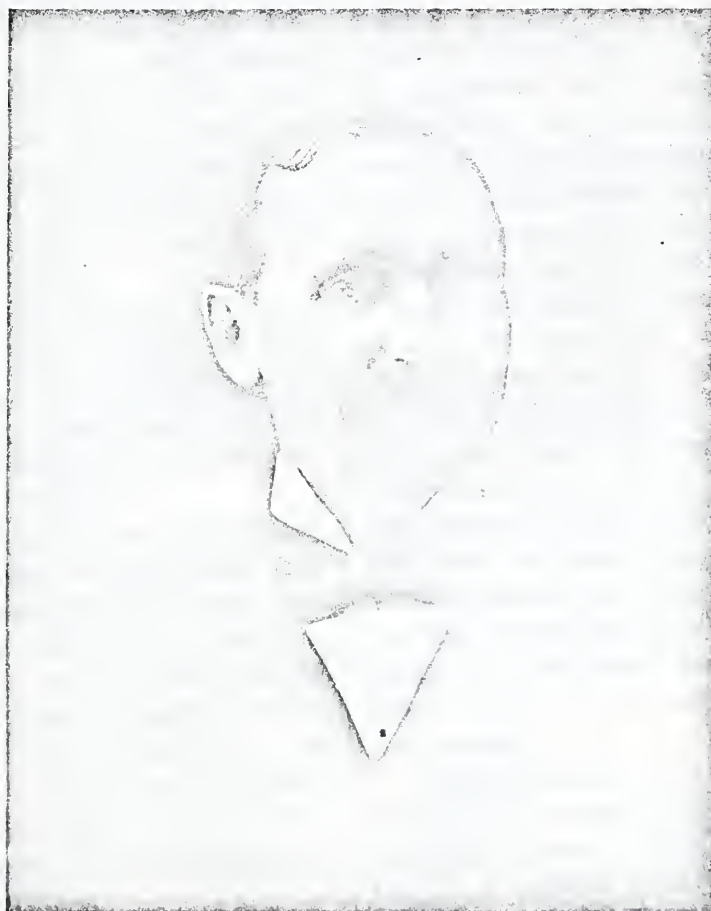
John Semer, the subject of this article, has lived practically his entire life in Jackson township, attending the public schools and engaged in the duties of farm life. In 1870 he settled on his present farm, which is one of the best cultivated in the county. He has been twice married, his first wife having been Margaret Simpson, of Delphos, to whom he was married July 31, 1869. Seven children were born to them, six of whom are living at this time, viz.; Edward L., of Jackson township; Eliza, wife of William Pangle, of Jackson township; Cassiah, wife of Elwood Snelling, of Van Wert; Luella, wife of David Rhodes, of Hartford City, Indiana; Bytha, wife of Alfred Mowery, of Van Wert; and Millie, who resides with her father. On May 23, 1901, Mr. Semer was married to his present wife, formerly Mrs. Frances Ruth, widow of Thomas Ruth of Vincennes, and daughter of John and Margaret (Reams) Carpenter. Her father was a native of Virginia, and her mother of Fairfield County, Ohio; they were among the early settlers of Van Wert County, locating in Washington township. By her first marriage Mrs. Semer had five children, namely: Lenna, wife of Henry Ahrens, of Toledo; Frederick, also of Toledo; Arthur, of Jackson township; and Walter and Noel T., both of whom are at home. Mr. Semer is a Democrat and has served as trustee and clerk of the township, has served on the School Board and for more than a quarter of a century has been justice of the peace. He enjoys the confidence and esteem of all and his well-known rectitude and integrity have caused him to be chosen many times to administer on various estates. He is connected with Middlepoint Lodge, No. 665, I. O. O. F., and has held various offices in the organization.

JAMES W. HARVEY, who resides in section 22, Hoaglin township, is one of the pioneers of Van Wert County, who is closely identified with the history and growth of this section of the State. He was born April 29, 1829, in Richland County, Ohio, and is a son of William and Sarah (Watson) Harvey, with whom he came to Van Wert County in 1841. William Harvey was a Democrat, a devout member of the United Brethren Church and a man who made many friends. He was treasurer of Hoaglin township for some time, and a most capable and efficient official.

The family resided in Union township for a number of years before coming to Hoaglin township, where our subject owns a farm of 60 acres. He has always engaged in farming, and seldom fails in harvesting good crops. He was married October 24, 1850, to Wilhelmina Reese, a native of Germany and a daughter of Christopher and Charlotte Reese. When about 15 years old she came to the United States with her parents. They resided for a short time in Dayton, Ohio, and later came to Van Wert County and settled in Union township. Mrs. Harvey died February 17, 1900. Of the eight children born to her, five survive, namely: Lewis A., a resident of Fort Wayne, Indiana; and George H., Francis D., Clara A. and Perry H., who live in Hoaglin township. Mr. Harvey is a Democrat and has served as trustee of the township for several terms.

NA. LOE, furniture dealer and undertaker, at Ohio City, is one of the reliable business men of the place. He was born in Greene County, Ohio, in 1873, the son of John Loe, a prominent agriculturist of the county named. Mr. Loe was

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REV. JAMES ALEXANDER GORDON, D. D.

reared on his father's farm, attended the neighboring schools, and then enjoyed collegiate advantages at Antioch. Subsequently he pursued a course in embalming, received a State license, and in November, 1901, selected Ohio City as his place of residence, buying out the furniture and undertaking business already established here. Later he erected a fine two-story building, 28 by 80 feet, centrally located, which gives him sufficient room for the expansion of his business and greatly facilitates its transaction. He is a man of high standing in the community, and is serving both as treasurer of Liberty township and as president of the Ohio City School Board.

In 1902 Mr. Loe was married to Lydia A. Warner, the accomplished daughter of John G. Warner, who was a soldier during the Civil War, then a farmer in Clark County and now a retired resident of Greene County, Ohio, his home being at Yellow Springs.

Mrs. Loe was educated at Antioch College, Valparaiso, Indiana, and at Chautauqua, New York; subsequently teaching for 10 years, during which period she spent many summer vacations in attendance upon normal schools. Both Mr. and Mrs. Loe are members of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and are active in its work, Mr. Loe being the superintendent of the Sunday-school. Politically Mr. Loe is a stanch Democrat, and fraternally is a Mason and an Odd Fellow.

EV. JAMES ALEXANDER GORDON, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Van Wert, whose portrait accompanies this sketch, is one of the most scholarly members of this religious body, widely known in the pulpit, the lecture field and literature. Dr. Gordon was

born at Fannettsburg, Pennsylvania, October 19, 1861, and is a son of Rev. J. Smith Gordon, who was for many years a distinguished clergyman in Pennsylvania.

The Gordon family originated in Scotland, but at a very early day became established in the North of Ireland, whence its American founders emigrated to the United States and settled in Pennsylvania. Alexander Gordon, the grandfather of Dr. Gordon, was born in Pennsylvania, and there became an agriculturist of substance and influence. The father, Rev. J. Smith Gordon, was born August 18, 1829, at Greencastle, Pennsylvania, and after a pastorate of 47 years died at Fannettsburg in 1904. He married Mary Catherine Montgomery, who was born in Fannettsburg in 1840, and died in 1864. Mrs. J. Smith Gordon was a granddaughter of Judge Elliott, a well-known jurist of Pennsylvania, whose brother, Rev. David Elliott, D. D. LL. D., was president of Washington and Jefferson College and one of the founders of the Western Theological Seminary, at Allegheny. In 1837, at the time of the division of the Presbyterian Church into Old School and New School, Dr. Elliott was serving as moderator of the General Assembly.

The children of Rev. J. Smith Gordon and wife were: James A., of this sketch; Mary, who lives at home; Clementine; Clarence M. Ph. D., a member of the faculty of Central University at Danville, Kentucky; and John K., a physician located at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

James Alexander Gordon attended the schools of his native place, in which, with his father's instruction in higher branches, he had prepared for college by the time he was 17 years of age. Entering the University of Wooster, at Wooster, Ohio, he completed its classical course in 1882, graduating with the

first honors of his class. Thence he went to Princeton, New Jersey, and was graduated from the Princeton Theological Seminary in 1885, on June 9th of that year being ordained to the ministry by the Presbytery of Carlisle, Pennsylvania. After a few months of mission work at Crookston, Minnesota, he received a call to Decatur, Michigan, and remained in charge there from January, 1886, until September, 1889, resigning in order to take advantage of a Williams fellowship of \$500, which he had been awarded at Harvard University, after a competitive examination open to all theological graduates. His competitive thesis was entitled "The Incarnation as the Goal of Evolution." After a year of post-graduate study at Harvard on November 1, 1890, he accepted a call to the First Presbyterian Church of Van Wert. His work here speaks for itself—in improved and increased church facilities and in a spiritual advancement most marked.

On September 1, 1887, Dr. James A. Gordon was married to Alice Clark Hill, who is a daughter of Hon. E. Parker Hill, formerly one of the most prominent citizens of Decatur, Michigan. Mr. Hill was born in Yates County, New York, May 11, 1819, enjoyed only common-school advantages, and became a cooper. In 1843 he married Harriet E. Hatch, who was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, and in 1858 removed to Decatur, Michigan. He was one of the originators of the First National Bank there—its first cashier and subsequently its president—and was also elected to many honorable positions in the public service of the county and State. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church and one of its most liberal supporters. After a happy married life of 62 years, Mr. Hill died August 20, 1905, leaving a wife and two children, his son, L. Dana Hill, being the present cashier of the First State

Bank of Decatur. Dr. Gordon and wife have an adopted daughter—Helen Emily.

In 1902 Dr. Gordon was honored by his alma mater with the degree of Doctor of Divinity. In the following year, accompanied by his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Lee R. Bonewitz, of Van Wert, he made a tour of Europe and the Holy Land, and upon his return prepared and delivered a series of travel lectures which proved so full of interest that they were published in book form, the volume bearing the title "A New Pilgrimage in the Old World." Dr. Gordon served for 11 years as stated clerk and treasurer of Lima Presbytery to which he belongs, and is a member of its home mission committee, in charge of the smaller churches of the presbytery. He has represented the presbytery in the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church—at Saratoga, in 1896, and at Winona Lake, in 1905. Dr. Gordon's pastorate is by far the longest in the history of the Van Wert church, and the congregation is known as one of the most flourishing in the State—harmonious and progressive, and generous in all good works.



MOS H. WATTS, master mechanic of the Cincinnati Northern Railroad, with headquarters at Van Wert, has been engaged in this line of work for more than 40 years. He was born in Baltimore, Maryland, January 19, 1847, and is a son of Reuben and Sophia (Koontz) Watts, both of whom were natives of Maryland, where they were married. The Watts family is of English descent.

Reuben Watts was a blacksmith and machinist in the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad shops at Baltimore until 1850, when he moved to

Cincinnati, Ohio, to take a position as engineer on the Little Miami Railroad. It was while on duty on the latter road that he met his death in 1861 as the result of a collision. His wife survived him about five years. Five daughters and three sons were born to them, six of whom grew to maturity, and four of whom, our subject and three sisters, are now living.

Amos H. Watts attended public school in Cincinnati until his 16th year. Being ambitious to do for himself, he entered the Little Miami Railroad shops soon after the death of his father, and for 11 years remained there as apprentice and machinist. In 1873 he was promoted to the position of general foreman of the same road, with headquarters at Xenia, and had served in that capacity about eight years when he went to Covington, Kentucky, as master mechanic of the Kentucky Central. Three years later he went to Marshall, Texas, to accept the position of master mechanic of the Texas & Pacific, and remained with that road until January 1, 1890, when he accepted his present position as master mechanic in charge of the entire system of the Cincinnati Northern road. In 1896 the headquarters were moved to Van Wert, at which time Mr. Watts became a resident of this city. These shops employ about 185 men and send out about 60 engineers and firemen. Mr. Watts has been devoted to his work from the first, and has been a faithful employee, having never lost any time since he started to work in 1862.

Amos H. Watts was married in 1871 to Mary Rosetta Arthur, a native of Clermont County, Ohio, and a daughter of S. E. Arthur, a distant relative of the late Chester A. Arthur, ex-President of the United States, as well as a descendant of the same ancestors as George Washington. Mrs. Watts is one of the heirs to the great Ball estate of Washington, and a

lady whose many admirable qualities have won her a host of friends. They have had four children, two pairs of twins, viz.: Frank, a machinist who died in April, 1905, at the age of 33 years, being then a widower and childless; Arthur, who was drowned in the Ohio River about 16 years ago; Laura, wife of O. G. Tague, of Lima; and John C., who sailed from New York on January 6, 1906, for the Isthmus of Panama, to become foreman in charge of machines for the United States on the canal. Mr. Watts is a Presbyterian. In politics he is a Republican. He was made a Mason in Cincinnati in 1869; belongs to the Foresters; Home Guards of America; Improved Order of Red Men and Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

JOHAN D. BECK, one of the substantial citizens and representative farmers of Pleasant township, whose well-cultivated farm of 80 acres is situated in section 3, was born May 11, 1854, in Union township, Van Wert County, Ohio. He is a son of Michael and Mary Ann (Feighner) Beck.

The parents of Mr. Beck were natives of Pennsylvania, and were pioneer settlers in the heavily timbered part of Union township, Van Wert County. They built their log cabin there, and endured many of the privations and hardships which fell to the lot of early settlers. Michael Beck was a man of sterling qualities, and became one of the best known and most highly respected citizens of Union township, where he served many years as a justice of the peace; he also served as township trustee and township treasurer. He was one of the liberal, early supporters of the Lutheran Church, and through life was a con-

sistent member. Of the children born to Michael Beck and wife, four survive, as follows: Daniel S., of Union township; Elizabeth E., of Paulding Center, Ohio; John D., of this sketch; and Sabina A., wife of John Roat, of Union township.

John D. Beck spent his boyhood and youth on his father's farm in Union township, and obtained his education in the best schools the vicinity of his home at that time afforded. His life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits, and his successful methods have often been adopted by his fellow farmers, with good results. He has a very fine farm and comfortable and attractive buildings.

Mr. Beck was united in marriage with Amanda J. Burtsfield, on December 26, 1878. She was born in Richland County, Ohio, March 17, 1858, and was 12 years old when she accompanied her parents, John and Catherine (Shoup) Burtsfield, to Union township, where they were early settlers. Mr. and Mrs. Burtsfield were natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. Burtsfield served as a justice of the peace in Union township and was also township treasurer. He died June 15, 1902, his wife having passed away September 21, 1898. The surviving children of Mr. and Mrs. Burtsfield are: Sarah L., John H. and Prudence A. (Mrs. S. A. McClure), of Union township; Amanda J., wife of our subject; Jacob, of Union township; and Samuel Stephen, of Toledo, Ohio; and Jessie A. (Mrs. Charles Elder), of Van Wert.

Mr. and Mrs. Beck have had five children, viz.: Catherine M. (Mrs. Charles C. Robinson), of Van Wert County; Alice A.; Stephen G.; George G.; and Flo L. The family belong to Pleasant Chapel, Methodist Episcopal Church.

Politically Mr. Beck is identified with the

Democratic party. He was one of the school directors of District No. 3, Pleasant township, and has always taken a great deal of interest in educational affairs. He is a man who stands very high in his neighborhood and enjoys the respect of all who know him.

JOSEPH H. RIDER, whose fine farm in section 16, township 4, range 4, Jennings township, stretches over 120 acres of valuable land, is also an honored survivor of the great Civil War, to the settlement of whose issues he gave three years of his early manhood. He was born in May, 1841, in Allen County, Ohio, just five months after his parents had moved there from Michigan. He is a son of Isaac T. and Eliza (Saltzman) Rider, natives of Vermont and New York, respectively.

Pioneer conditions prevented Mr. Rider from enjoying many educational advantages. The country round about was thinly settled, and during his school days the children of the locality were gathered in subscription schools, which were sometimes held in log structures in the clearings, and sometimes in the homes of the pupils. By the time Mr. Rider was grown, conditions were materially changed and a later generation had many more advantages. He grew to manhood on the homestead and was trained in practical farming, an occupation that has claimed his attention through life.

In 1862 Mr. Rider enlisted for service in the Civil War, entering Company A, 81st Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served three years, mainly in the Army of the Tennessee, participating in all the hardships, long marches and battles of General Sherman's memorable campaign. He was one of the bronzed veterans who took

part in the Grand Review at Washington after the triumphal closing of the war.

Upon his return from the army, Mr. Rider made arrangements to resume farming, and on August 24, 1865, he purchased 80 acres of land, situated in the woods, in section 16, Jennings township. He lived in a log cabin, all his early buildings being constructed of logs. As he cleared and improved his land, he gradually added to its extent, until he now owns 120 acres and has 105 of these cleared. The old log buildings well served their purpose, but they have long since given way to comfortable, commodious and substantial buildings of modern architecture. This valuable home and farm which Mr. Rider literally developed from the wilderness, represents the industry and judicious management of 40 years.

On December 20, 1866, Mr. Rider was married to Mahala Jane Rupert, who is a daughter of George and Lavina (Parrott) Rupert, the former of whom lived to the venerable age of 102 years, 4 months and 12 days, while his wife lived to the age of 86 years. Mr. and Mrs. Rider have eight children, namely: Lavina, wife of Frank Simptons, of Auglaize County; Minnie Etta, wife of Perry Bodey, of Salem township, Auglaize County; Rachel Belle, wife of John Adams, of Lima; Lettie May, wife of Harley Slentz, of Jennings township; Naomi, wife of Augustus Neytermayer; John H., who married Samantha Adams and lives at Monticello; and James William and Thomas Grover, both living at home. There are also 19 grandchildren in the family.

Mr. and Mrs. Rider are members of the New Salem Presbyterian Church, of Salem township, Auglaize County, in which Mr. Rider is a deacon. He is one of the representative men of his township and has been one of

its most useful citizens, having lent his influence for years to the movements calculated to promote the section's best interests.



O. ROBERTS, one of the representative citizens of Van Wert, who has been identified with a number of its large business interests for some years, was born in Montgomeryshire, North Wales, April 11, 1872, and is a son of Owen and Anna Elizabeth (Evans) Roberts.

The parents of Mr. Robert's were also natives of North Wales. The father was engaged in the brick and lime business and also operated a stone quarry. He was a good business man, but died early in middle life, when our subject was only 12 years of age, his wife having died four years previously. They had a family of seven children, namely: John, of North Wales; David, of Australia; Hugh, of Venedocia, Ohio; Anna, who died in Wales; William, a farmer living at Venedocia; J. O., of this sketch; and Owen, who died in Wales.

After the death of his parents, our subject went to live with a dry goods merchant by the name of James, with whom he remained until he was 17 years of age, attending school and working in the store. In 1889 he came from Liverpool, England, on the steamship "Etruria," to the American metropolis, and from New York to Venedocia, Ohio, where his uncle resided. After two weeks with his uncle, he moved to Van Wert and secured employment in the dry goods store of H. G. Lehmann & Son, the same business that he now owns. He remained continuously with Mr. Lehmann for about seven years, with the exception of three months spent at Lima, and then, in partnership with D. W. Williams, bought the business. In six months time Mr.

Roberts had acquired the whole business, through purchase, and since 1897 it has been conducted under his own name. Three years ago he purchased the building, a three-story and basement structure, located at No. 106 West Main street. Here he has excellent accommodations for his large and constantly increasing business in dry goods, cloaks, carpets and notions, his stock being probably the largest and most carefully selected in the city.

In addition to making a success of his mercantile enterprise, Mr. Roberts has been identified with other business interests. Some four years ago, in association with J. D. Rowland, he started a skirt and wrapper factory, which for a time was operated under the title of Roberts & Rowland. In 1902 Mr. Roberts having become interested in the possibilities of oil development, leased 1,088 acres of oil land in the vicinity of Venedocia, and among his Welsh friends formed the Cambrian Oil Company, with a capital stock of \$300,000. On its incorporation, Mr. Roberts was made manager and treasurer. The leases owned by this company have proven of the greatest value, many wells being now in operation and more projected for the spring of 1906. Formerly, Mr. Roberts also operated branch stores at Willshire, Ohio City and Scott, but he has disposed of these. Recently, with Edward Roberts and Glenn H. McIlvain, he came into possession of the Avenue Hotel, at Van Wert, which is now one of the best hostleries in the city.

On January 30, 1891, Mr. Roberts was married to Louise Mabel McIlvain, who is the daughter of James R. and Susan (Shultz) McIlvain, natives of Delaware County, Ohio, but residents of Van Wert. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts have one daughter—Helene Gordon. The beautiful family home is situated at No. 613 South Washington street. Mr. Roberts owns a farm of 120 acres in York township,

and Mrs. Roberts one of 80 acres, in Pleasant township. They are prominent members of the First Presbyterian Church, of which Mr. Roberts is a trustee. He is president of the church choir, having a trained tenor voice.

Mr. Roberts is a Republican in his political views, but takes no very active interest in political campaigns. His fraternal connection is with the Knights of the Maccabees.

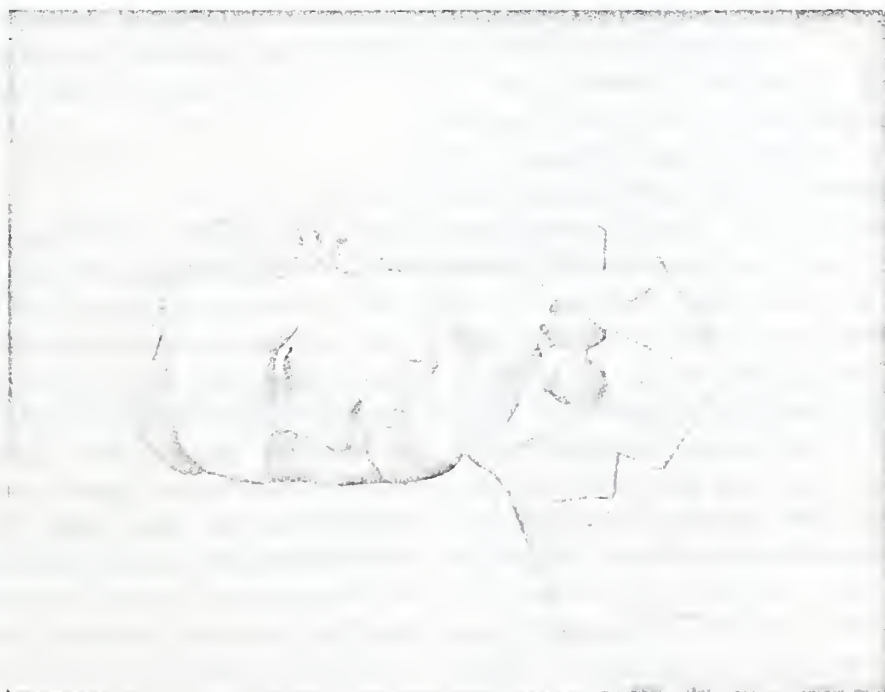
For the past three years Mr. Roberts has taken a decided interest in automobiles, making many excursions in a handsome one of his own. During 1904, with his wife and daughter, he enjoyed a delightful tour in Europe.

JOSEPH SPIELES, township trustee for the past five years, and one of the representative and influential farmers of Washington township, residing on his fine farm of 80 acres in section 10, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, August 15, 1857, and is a son of Philip and Magdalene (Wulshire) Spieles.

Philip Spieles and wife were both born, reared and married in Germany and came to America about 1835, locating on a farm in Fairfield County, where Mr. Spieles lived until the time of his death in 1880. His wife survived him 10 years, passing away in 1890.

Joseph Spieles was reared in Fairfield County and obtained his education in the district schools, being also married in that county to Johanna Runser, a native of that county and a daughter of Sebastian Runser. Mr. Spieles moved to Van Wert County in 1882, and purchased 80 acres of land in Washington township, which is his present home. About half the land was in timber, and the family lived for many years after their arrival in an old log cabin, which is now doing duty as a

MRS. MARTHA L. DULL




JAMES MONROE DULL

woodshed. Mr. Spieles has made many improvements on the property, especially in the line of putting up substantial buildings. In 1892 a fine large brick house was erected, and in 1901 a large barn was added to the many other improvements.

By his first marriage Mr. Spieles had six children: Clara, who married Chris. Huysman and has one child—Carletto; Leo, who died aged 19 years; Edward, who died at the age of nine; Frank; Theresa and Isabelle. Mrs. Johanna Spieles died in 1894 and in November, 1895, Mr. Spieles married Maggie Noll, by whom he had two children—Henry and Margaret, who both died in infancy. The second Mrs. Spieles died in 1898. Mr. Spieles and family are all members of St. John's Catholic Church, of Delphos.

Mr. Spieles has held a number of local offices, having served for eight years as assessor of Washington township. In 1901 he was elected trustee and in 1904 was reelected to serve another term of three years.

AMES MONROE DULL, one of the capitalists and representative citizens of Liberty township, who owns a very valuable farm of 360 acres in sections 18, 19 and 20, and resides in the section last named, was born in Willshire township, Van Wert County, Ohio, January 23, 1846. His parents were Lenhart and Susanna (Ream) Dull. John Dull, the grandfather, was born in Pennsylvania in 1778, and soon after his marriage to Hannah Lenhart settled in Fayette County. In 1832 he moved to Stark County, Ohio, where he entered 320 acres of land. In 1834, during the prevalence of an epidemic of cholera, both he and his wife died.

Lenhart Dull was born in Fayette County,

Pennsylvania, August 18, 1815, and was 16 years of age when his parents moved to Stark County. He grew up to be a practical farmer and in 1840 entered 160 acres of heavily timbered land in Willshire township, Van Wert County, paying for it at the rate of \$2.50 an acre. In 1842, after his marriage, he settled on his land, building thereon a round-log cabin, and subsequently, with the assistance of his sons, cleared it and developed it into a fine farm. He made many improvements, among the first of which being the erection of a two-story log house in place of the first rude cabin. Mr. Dull continued to add to his land until he owned 1,000 acres, all of which he disposed of to his sons, either by sale or by gift. He died May 8, 1892. His widow afterward married his brother, Elias Dull, and still resides in Willshire township at a venerable age. She was born May 10, 1824, and was married to Lenhart Dull on February 17, 1842. There were 13 births to this marriage.

The surviving children of Lenhart Dull and wife are: Mrs. Celesta Robinson, of Liberty township, born December 2, 1843; James Monroe, of this sketch; Thomas Jefferson, born April 7, 1848, who lives in Michigan; George Washington, born June 2, 1850, who is a resident of Oklahoma; Franklin Pierce, born January 31, 1855, who lives in Liberty township; James Buchanan, born July 11, 1857, and living at Rockford, Mercer County, Ohio; Lafayette Jackson, born April 15, 1861, who resides at Salt Lake City, Utah; Joseph Elmore, born August 20, 1863, who resides in Oklahoma; Isabella, born September 5, 1866, who lives at Rockford; Mrs. Arabella Cushman, born September 5, 1866 (a twin sister of Isabella), who resides at Tippecanoe City, Ohio; Mrs. Mary C. Estell, born March 5, 1871, who lives in Toledo, Ohio; and two children who died in infancy.

James Monroe Dull has devoted his entire life to agricultural pursuits, remaining on the home farm until his marriage and immediately afterward moving to his present homestead in Liberty township. In 1891 he erected his handsome brick residence, which is conceded to be the finest in the township and one of the most comfortable and well kept in all Van Wert County. His other buildings are in accordance with the residence. The great barn, which is also one of the most substantial in his section of the country, was erected in 1887. In addition to his large farming and stock-raising interests Mr. Dull, in association with his two sons, A. P. and E. M., operates a large grain elevator; is in the flour mill business at Rockford, Mercer County and also runs a feed store at Celina, Mercer County. He is a man of great business enterprise, having, moreover, the foresight and sound judgment to successfully carry out his plans.

On May 17, 1868, Mr. Dull was married to Martha Ann Lintemoot, who was born in Liberty township, Van Wert County, Ohio, February 10, 1851, and is a daughter of Martin and Amanda Lintemoot, both natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Dull have reared the following 12 children, no death having yet invaded their happy domestic circle: Wilbert Austin, born March 14, 1869, who married Florence Anspaugh, on March 24, 1892, and resides in Willshire; Arthur Pierce, born April 13, 1870, who married Maud Shipley, on October 2, 1894, and is a resident of Rockford, Mercer County; Morris Lenhart, born June 14, 1871, who was married September 20, 1902, to Cecil Maud Hallenbeck, and resides at North Baltimore, Ohio; Fanny Maud, born June 7, 1873, who married Frank Custer, on August 19, 1891, and lives in Liberty township; Edgar Martin, born October 9, 1874, who married Ida May Phellis, on March 2, 1904,

and is a resident of Celina; Serena May, born April 18, 1876, who married W. O. Taylor, April 8, 1893, and lives in Liberty township; Daisy Florence, born October 15, 1877; Curtis Elmer, born March 25, 1879, who married Mary Christina Smith on September 3, 1904, and lives on the home farm; James Monroe, Jr., born June 29, 1880, who married Hazel Aileen Bodkin, on June 11, 1905, and is a resident of Celina; Herbert Oscar, born May 12, 1882, who married Mary Luticia Bolenbaugh, on November 15, 1903, and is also living on the family homestead; Grover Cleveland, born April 17, 1884; and Thurman Allen, who was born April 19, 1888.

Mr. Dull has long been one of the most prominent men of his township, for years closely identified with its general advancement. Thus, in 1879, his wishes had weight, when he made application to have a railroad station built at a little hamlet in the vicinity of his property. The place was still insignificant, but a postoffice had been established there, known to the Government as McKee. Mr. Dull served as postmaster there for many years, and when he suggested that the name be changed to Dull, on account of the family being largely interested in the locality, his wishes were regarded; the result has been the neat station of Dull, and the postoffice of that name, which will assist in keeping in memory one of the most prominent and useful men of this section of Van Wert County, one who has greatly advanced its interests and assisted in its development.

It is not common to find a busy man in these days freely giving of his valuable time for the advancement of general education, but for years Mr. Dull has consented to serve on the School Board and to take the responsibility of its presidency. The result is shown in the excellence of the public schools of Liberty

The first of these is the fact that the human race is not a homogeneous mass, but is composed of many distinct groups, each with its own characteristics. These groups are known as races, and they are distinguished from one another by their physical and mental traits. The second fact is that these races have not remained stationary, but have changed and evolved over time. This is due to a variety of factors, including changes in environment, social conditions, and genetic inheritance. The third fact is that the human race is a single, unified entity, despite its diversity. This is because all races share certain common characteristics, such as the capacity for reason and the ability to create culture. These three facts are the basis of the study of human evolution, and they are the subject of the following pages.

The study of human evolution is a branch of anthropology, and it is concerned with the development of the human race from its earliest ancestors to the present day. It is a science that seeks to understand the processes that have shaped the human body and mind, and it is a discipline that is constantly expanding its knowledge and understanding of the human race. The study of human evolution is a fascinating and important field of research, and it is one that is sure to continue to grow and develop in the years to come.


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township and the economical manner in which they are conducted. As has been remarked, Mr. Dull takes unusual interest in this matter, believing thoroughly in the public school system and its vast amount of influence for good. He so carefully investigates the practical value of the methods that the other members of the board rely implicitly upon his judgment.

Politically Mr. Dull has always been affiliated with the Democratic party, and on many occasions it has honored him with official position. He has served as township clerk and assessor, and on two occasions has been chosen as the party standard-bearer in the race for the Legislature. The district, however, is hopelessly Republican and does not very often permit a prominent Democrat to be elected. Mr. Dull is one of the leading members of the United Brethren Church and is a trustee of church and parsonage. He is superintendent of the Sunday-school also, and, in fact, is closely identified with all the various activities which contribute to the good standing and continuous development of Liberty township.

Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Dull accompany this sketch, being presented on a foregoing page.

EORGE J. WISE, who for many years has been engaged in farming a tract of 156 acres situated in section 2, Liberty township, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on December 20, 1847, and was the oldest of a family of nine children, born to George M. and Elizabeth (Hertel) Wise, both natives of Germany. George M. Wise came to this country when a young man. A full story of his life will be found in this work in the sketch of Jacob A. Wise.

George J. Wise was two years old when his parents moved to Stark County, Ohio. Here

his father ran a bakery for about two years. In 1851, when our subject was but four years old, his parents moved to Van Wert County and settled on a farm in Liberty township, which is now owned by our subject. The original farm was a tract of 80 acres of timberland; at that time there were no roads, school-houses or churches. His father erected a log cabin and double log barn, which stood until some 10 years ago, when they were torn down by Mr. Wise. Here George J. Wise was reared, assisting his father to convert the timberland into a tillable, productive farm. A great deal of hard work, patience and energy was necessary to bring about such a change. On October 12, 1874, he was married to Virginia Catherine Holland, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Knittle) Holland. John Holland was born in Allen County, Ohio, and was Van Wert County's first surveyor. He was married in this county, and owned a farm of 80 acres in Ridge township.

John Holland enlisted February 25, 1862, in Company K, 46th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf. He had been in the army but a short time when he was given a furlough on account of sickness. He died May 18, 1862, at Paducah, Kentucky, while *en route* to his home. At that time his daughter Virginia Catherine was only four years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Wise have had seven children, all of whom are living. Charles, the eldest, who is a school teacher in Liberty township, married Gertrude Clarke; they have three children—Cecil, Lucile, John Gordon and Ivy May; Charles lives on a farm of 40 acres. Elizabeth Margaret married Jacob Eber and lives in Harrison township. The other children are: Rozella, William Edward, Frances Amelia, Albert Ray and John Nelson.

Mr. Wise has added to the original 80 acres until he now has 156 acres, all in Lib-

erty township. In 1897 he built the frame house which the family occupies, and in 1900 a good substantial barn was erected. Mr. Wise is a member and trustee of St. Peter's Evangelical Church, of Liberty township.

ERNEST KOHN, M. D., who is practicing at Cavett and in the vicinity, was born June 17, 1870, near Ottonville, Putnam County, Ohio, being a son of Rev. Horace and Josephine (Simpson) Kohn, well-known residents of Van Wert County. Rev. Horace Kohn is a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church now residing on a farm in retirement from active ministerial duties. He was born in Franklin County, Ohio, October 10, 1843. When our subject was one year old the family removed to Jackson township, Van Wert County. After a year they moved to Washington township, where they resided 12 years on a farm near Middlepoint. They spent one year in Convooy and then moved to Willshire, where the father still resides. The family consisted of 10 children, four of whom died in infancy. The six now living are: Ernest; Clarence, who is in the county auditor's office; Laura, wife of John Banta, a merchant of Willshire; Florence, wife of E. E. Smith, city ticket agent for the "Big Four" Railroad at Indianapolis; Homer, a clothier of Willshire; and Walter, who is studying medicine at the school in which our subject was a pupil. Mrs. Kohn was born in Illinois September 2, 1848, and died in Willshire, November 2, 1889.

Ernest Kohn attended school at Middlepoint, at Ada and the preparatory school at Delaware. He then taught one year in Willshire township, when he entered Fort Wayne Medical College, which is now the medical de-

partment of Purdue University, and from which he was graduated in 1894. He at once entered upon the practice of his profession, spending the first two years at Preble, Indiana. He located in Cavett in September, 1896. Dr. Kohn has gained an extended and enviable reputation as a skilled physician, and is building up a practice which places him at the head of his profession in his section.

Dr. Kohn was married September 24, 1895, to Hattie Mook, who was born in Bradley, Michigan, May 24, 1872, and is a daughter of Jacob Beam, but was adopted by Mr. Mook when she was seven years of age. They have one child, Farmer, who was born in Willshire, September 29, 1896, and is now in school. The Doctor owns a nice home of six acres in Cavett, and built his residence in 1898. He is justice of the peace, and endeavors to give a true interpretation of the law. Dr. Kohn is a member of the Masonic lodge at Van Wert. In politics he is a Democrat.

JACOB R. BEAM, postmaster at Willshire, was born near Ansonia, Darke County, Ohio, January 29, 1844, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Rifle) Beam.

The parents of Mr. Beam were born in Pennsylvania, and accompanied their parents to Darke County. They were reared there and were also married in that county, but both died in Mercer County, Ohio, the father aged 66 years and the mother aged 70 years. Their children were: Martha, who died aged 22 years; Johnson, a member of the 47th Regiment, Indiana Vol. Inf., who was killed at Vicksburg; William, who is a retired farmer, living at Willshire; Silas, of Celina, who served during the latter part of the Civil War;

Aaron and John, both deceased at an early age; Rachel (Ireland), of Geneva, Indiana; Milton, of Venedocia; and Jacob R.

Jacob R. Beam, who was the third in order of birth in his parents' family, enjoys the distinction of being the oldest resident of Willshire. He was 14 years old when his parents removed to Mercer County, Ohio, and settled on a farm just south of Willshire. He assisted in the farming until 1861, when he enlisted in Company E, 46th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., under Captain Pinney and Colonel Worthington. Although many years have glided by since those stirring days, merely to mention the names of Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg, Jackson, Chattanooga, Buzzards' Roost, Resaca and Kenesaw Mountain, will bring a light to the eye and a glow to the heart not only of those who in these battles, passed through a baptism of fire, but to those old enough to remember the breathless days of suspense that attended those left at home. Mr. Beam passed through all of these battles unscathed, and with his regiment took part in the campaign attendant upon the siege of Atlanta, the battle at Bentonville, on to the sea with Sherman, back through the Carolians and helped to fight out the last battles of the war. Mr. Beam frankly confesses to being "mortally scared" on many occasions; but he was not injured and was able to participate in the triumphal review at Washington.

After the war, Mr. Beam returned to Willshire and engaged in farming for one summer, and then went to Allegan County, Michigan, where for seven years he was engaged in railroad contracting and farming. His next return to Ohio was final. For one year he farmed in Willshire township, and then moved into the village, which has been his home ever since. For two years he worked at the carpenter's trade, for some 14 years was employed by others in a butcher shop, then ran a

shop of his own for two years, after which he was in a grocery business for 13 years. On December 15, 1901, he was appointed postmaster at Willshire, and was reappointed in 1905. Of a family comprising a father and six brothers, he was the only Republican.

Mr. Beam was married first to Harriet Weimer, who was born in Adams County, Indiana. At her death she left two children: Lulu, wife of Wallace Johnson, of Adams County, Indiana; and Hattie, wife of Dr. Kohn of Cavett. Mr. Beam was married (second) to Ellen Detter, who was born in Mercer County, Ohio, and is a daughter of John Detter. They have four children: Myrtle, John, Jesse and Harry, the last named being assistant postmaster. Mr. Beam owns his pleasant family home. He has served on the Board of Education and as a member of the Council. He belongs to Heath Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and is the only survivor of the 30 men from his neighborhood, who, like himself, bravely took up arms in defense of country. He is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias at Willshire.




GUST. AD. ANDERSON, superintendent and general manager of The Anderson Piano Company, one of the leading manufacturing organizations of Van Wert, is a man who occupies a prominent position in the business world of this locality. He is a native of Sweden, born in November, 1856, and is a son of Carl and Dorothea (Gustafson) Anderson. The father of Mr. Anderson was a mechanic during his active years, and reared a family of eight children. He came to the United States in 1861 and located first at Erie, Pennsylvania, but later removed to Rockford, Illinois, where he still resides.

Gust. Ad. Anderson enjoyed but limited educational advantages in his native land, at an early age turning his attention to practical matters. From his father he doubtless inherited a certain mechanical skill, which he developed until he was considered an excellent workman in Stockholm, the city of his residence. In search of better business opportunities, Mr. Anderson decided to come to America and in August, 1886, landed in the city of New York, the bearer of a valued medal, which he had won in token of his fine workmanship. Ten years later, on April 15, 1896, he became a resident of Van Wert, Ohio.

Mr. Anderson's wife was formerly Margaretha Jacobson. Both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the Lutheran Church. The family circle also includes three children. Their pleasant home is located at No. 620 South Washington street. In his political views Mr. Anderson is a Republican, his fraternal connections being with the Home Guards of America, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Masons and the Modern Brotherhood.

THE ANDERSON PIANO COMPANY. The name of the present firm was at first The Anderson-Newton Piano Company. The Anderson Piano Company is a corporation with a capital stock of \$200,000, and manufactures only fine pianos, the output being some 400 instruments a year. The pianos made by this firm possess all the qualities required in superior instruments—marvelous tone quality, artistic appearance and durability; and they are found in homes all over the country. The company is officered by men of large capital and business prominence, as follows: President, J. G. Rupright; vice-president, George H. Marsh; treasurer, R. J. Cavett; secretary, C. F. Manship; superintendent and general manager, Gust. Ad. Anderson; and assistant

superintendent, O. C. Nelson. Mr. Nelson is a man of excellent mechanical skill, having worked with Mr. Anderson for 16 years.

HOMAS TURNER WITTEN has been for many years a resident of Liberty township. He owns a farm of 185½ acres in section 24, 145½ acres being situated in the eastern half of the section and the remaining 40 acres in the western half. He was born March 13, 1835, in Jackson township, Guernsey County, Ohio, and is a son of Philip and Rebecca (Jackson) Witten.

Philip Witten was a son of Thomas Witten and was born in the southern part of Ohio. The grandfather of Philip Witten went from Wales to England at the time of the Revolutionary War, and was sent to America to report the progress of the war. After coming here he decided to join the American Army, and became a soldier under Washington. On his mother's side, Mr. Witten is a member of the Jackson family, of which President Andrew Jackson was a member.

Thomas T. Witten was reared and educated in Guernsey County, where he lived with his parents until he was about 24 years of age. In 1859 they moved to Liberty township and settled on a farm of 320 acres, which his father acquired through a trade of his Guernsey County farm. Mr. Witten followed the footsteps of his ancestors and became a tiller of the soil. He has lived in Liberty township for the past 47 years, and has become one of the influential and highly respected citizens of his community. He was married in Van Wert County to Sarah Ann Rowland, a daughter of Levi Rowland, one of the early settlers. Mr. and Mrs. Witten have had seven children,



RESIDENCE OF PETER SNYDER

namely: Delilah, who was born February 17, 1866, and died September 3, 1872; Levi Homer, born January 16, 1868, and deceased January 28, 1887; Philip Arthur, born May 24, 1870, and deceased September 6, 1872; Charles William, born August 24, 1872, who married Minnie E. Bell, and has two children, Harold and Gaylord, and lives on part of his father's farm; Rachel, born October 4, 1875, and deceased August 20, 1889; Francis Scott, born October 24, 1877, who married Margaret Ross, has two children, Dwight L. and Edith Norma, and lives on a farm of 50 acres; and Norma Rebecca, born June 29, 1885, who lives at home. Mrs. Witten died March 25, 1904, aged 61 years. Mr. Witten has served several terms as trustee of Liberty township and also as school director. Mr. Witten is a veteran of the Civil War, having served four months during 1864 in the Army of the Potomac.

PETER SNYDER, one of the oldest and most highly respected residents of Van Wert County, has resided continuously on his present farm in section 8, Jackson township, ever since he first located in the county shortly after the close of the Civil war. He is not only the owner of 190 acres in Jackson township, but of 40 acres in Morrow County, Ohio, as well. Mr. Snyder was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, August 30, 1832, and is a son of John M. and Anna (Heiste) Snyder, both of whom were natives of Germany. He was a child of perhaps three years when his parents removed with their family to Richland County, Ohio, where he spent the intervening years before coming to Van Wert County.

On January 3, 1862, Mr. Snyder enlisted in Company K, 81st Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and

served until the close of the Civil war. He took part in many fierce battles and was one of Sherman's "bummers" during the march to the Sea.

Peter Snyder has been twice married. His first wife was Matilda Iiams, a native of Morrow County, Ohio, who left him two children—Clarilda Ann, wife of W. L. Thomas, a prosperous merchant of Hardin County; and John M., a farmer of Jackson township. Mrs. Mary Hardesty Iiams, the mother of our subject's first wife, is still living in Morrow County, Ohio, at the advanced age of 100 years, her birth having occurred December 27, 1805, in Belmont County, Ohio. Mr. Snyder's second union was with Mrs. Amelia Snyder, of Galion, Ohio, and daughter of George Spraw of that place. Three children have been born to this union, two of whom are living, viz.: George F., of Jackson township; and Lola A., wife of Alva Ashbaugh, of Paulding County. Mr. Snyder has been a lifelong Republican. For a number of years he served as trustee of the township, and, both in public and private life, is a gentleman of the highest integrity who has won the friendship of all who have had any dealings with him. On a preceding page, in connection with this sketch, is shown a view of Mr. Snyder's residence, which also includes pictures of himself and children.

ABSALOM A. MILLER, one of the venerable citizens and well-known pioneers of Jackson township, who resides on his excellent farm of 85 acres, located in section 18, was born in Ross County, Ohio, February 24, 1829, and is a son of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Adams) Miller.

The parents of Mr. Miller were natives of Ross County and belonged to pioneer families

of that section. Absalom A. Miller was thus reared amidst pioneer surroundings, and few know better than he, the courage, patience and effort required to endure the many hardships of early days. He attended the subscription schools in his boyhood, where the teaching was thorough if not very extended. Mr. Miller can still recall the log-cabin school in which he gained the greater part of his early knowledge of books. From childhood he was taught to work, and by the time he was 25 years of age and had left his native county, he was a thorough and practical farmer. For a number of years he lived in Allen County, and from that county enlisted for service in the Civil war, entering Company H, 179th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf. He participated in the battle and siege of Nashville and served under General Thomas for one year, being honorably discharged on account of the closing of the war.

On September 7, 1853, Mr. Miller was married to Rachel A. Carmean, who was born in Ohio, February 3, 1833, a daughter of William and Margaret (Miller) Carmean, the former of whom was a native of Maryland and the latter of Ohio. They were early settlers in Ross County. The father was drowned in the Auglaize River when Mrs. Miller was a small girl. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have had 10 children, of whom three are now living: Sarah C., a music teacher, living at home; Alvira E., wife of Joseph Shaw, of Grover Hill; and Annie L., wife of R. A. Oakley, of Jackson township.

In the fall of 1874 Mr. Miller removed with his family from Allen to Van Wert County and settled on the farm where he now lives. Again pioneer conditions prevailed more or less, and both he and wife experienced many hardships in the early days which have long since passed away. For a number of years he served as

school director of District No. 3, and for nine years was a trustee of Jackson township. A portion of this time he was president of the board. Politically Mr. Miller is a Democrat. Both he and his wife are valued members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They are widely known, and they have a large circle of devoted friends. Their hospitable home is frequently the scene of social gatherings.

JACOB KISER, an estimable resident of Liberty township, has lived for the last 24 years on his finely improved farm of 80 acres, situated in section 11. He was born in Wayne County, Ohio, February 21, 1837, and is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Harshman) Kiser.

Jacob Kiser, Sr., was born and raised in Pennsylvania and later moved to Wayne County, Ohio. He came to Van Wert County in 1852, and bought 160 acres of land in Liberty township, where he lived until the time of his death. Mrs. Kiser, who was the mother of nine children, is also deceased.

Jacob Kiser, subject of this sketch, was 15 years of age at the time of his father's removal to Van Wert County. He was reared on the home farm and assisted his father in clearing the farm of its heavy growth of timber. When 26 years of age he married Annie Flager, a daughter of Adam Flager, who was one of the pioneer settlers of this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Kiser have been born five children namely: Margaret, wife of Benjamin Hoffman, who is at present mayor of Ohio City; John, who is single and lives at home; Simon, of Ohio City, who is a member of the firm of Goodman & Kiser, conducting a livery and feed stable; Hannah, who married L. J.

Schidt, of Liberty township and has three children—Esther, Laymo and Edith; Emma, who married Jacob Swoveland, of Ohio City, and died March 9, 1906, leaving three children—Hugh, Madge and Dale; and Myrtle, who lives at home.

In 1864 Mr. Kiser entered Company G, 17th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served until the close of the war. He has lived on his present farm, which is a part of the old Flager farm, since 1882. In 1903 the frame house which the family now occupies was built, the house built in 1885 having burned down. The barn which is a fine red building was erected in 1894. Mr. Kiser is a member of the Grand Army of Republic and has served as school director and supervisor of Liberty township.

LEVY ELLIS FAWCETT, a representative farmer of Washington township, the owner of a fine farm of 80 acres in section 29, was born in Greene County, Ohio, April 3, 1833, and is a son of Robert and Mary (Pickering) Fawcett, and a grandson of John Fawcett. The Fawcetts are among the pioneer families of Virginia and originated in England. John Fawcett, the grandfather, was born and raised in the Old Dominion, where his entire life was devoted to agricultural pursuits. Robert Fawcett, the father, was also a native of Virginia, in mature years first migrating to Belmont County, Ohio, and later to Greene County, where he owned a farm of 190 acres. This he operated until the time of his death in 1872; his wife had died in 1858. They were the parents of 10 children.

Levi Fawcett was reared on his father's farm in Greene County, was educated in the

schools of that vicinity, and married on November 6, 1856, to Ellen Burr, a daughter of David and Louisa (Oxley) Burr. Mr. Burr was born and raised in Green County, and was a son of Peter Burr. Mrs. Fawcett's mother was a Virginian, and came to Ohio when six years of age. For two years after his marriage Mr. Fawcett lived with his father-in-law, then made his home for 14 years with his father on the home place. In 1873, after the death of his father, he leased the farm and moved to Van Wert County, where he bought a farm of 80 acres in Washington township—this being still his home, although he leases the land.

Mr. and Mrs. Fawcett have had 13 children: Emma Jane, who married Samuel Baer and died, leaving two children; Albert, who married Mary Summersett and has three children; Mary Louisa, who married Reuben Summersett, resides in Ridge township and has four children; John, who married Mattie Conroy and has four children; David, who married Lillie Hamilton, and has four children; Robert who married Maggie Rarick, and has four children; William, who married Anna Ferguson and has two children; Alma, the deceased wife of John Parlett, who left two children; Lulu, who married Sherman Davis and has one child; Elva, married to George Clark, who is the mother of three children; Frank, a resident of Van Wert; Nellie, who married Thomas Lynch, lives in Pennsylvania and has one child; and Charles Oscar, who died in infancy.

Politically, Mr. Fawcett has been a Prohibitionist for several years. He was some years ago elected supervisor of Washington township, on the Republican ticket, and served one term. In his religious relations he is an overseer of the Friends' Church of Middlepoint, both he and his wife being members of that denomination.

ADAM FAUBLE, the owner of a finely improved farm of 100 acres in sections 27 and 28, Liberty township, is one of the well-known and progressive farmers of the township. He was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, September 20, 1854, and is a son of Christopher and Catherine (Martin) Fauble.

Christopher Fauble was born in Germany, and there was reared and educated. He was married to Catherine Martin and when 35 years of age emigrated to America. He settled in Fairfield County, Ohio, and later moved to Hocking County, where he purchased a farm of 200 acres. Here he lived until the time of his death, after which his wife moved back to Fairfield County and lived with her daughter during the remainder of her life.

Adam Fauble was reared on his father's farm and attended the district schools in Hocking County. He lived for a number of years in that county where he owned a farm of 160 acres. He disposed of this land in 1888, moved to Van Wert County and bought his present farm of 100 acres, of which 80 acres are situated in section 28 and the remaining 20 in section 27. In 1903 he added to the many other improvements already made by erecting a fine large barn on the farm.

Adam Fauble was married first to Lizzie Walborn, who died in Van Wert County in 1899. They had six children: Edward, Clarence, Daniel, Charles, Florence and Edna. Edward, the eldest, died of typhoid fever August 20, 1905, aged 22 years.

In December, 1899, Adam Fauble was married to Mrs. Lizzie Stahl, a daughter of Charles Chilcote. She was the widow of Werley Stahl, by whom she had three children: Lula, Walter and Lloyd. She had been previously married to David Saun and had by that marriage five children, as follows: Emma, who married

Charles Feasel, has four children, John, Noah, Heber and Dorl, and lives near Monroe, Indiana; Eva, who married Daniel Baumgartner, has three children Alma, Hoyt and Carl, and lives in Willshire; Bertha, who married John Demler, of Ohio City, has one child, Fay—she was the widow of Amos Avery by whom she had one child, Arabella; Charles, who lives at Willshire; and Leah, who married Frank Garwood and has one child, Eva. Mr. Fauble is a member of the Lutheran Church.

SAMUEL B. HARVEY, residing in section 11, Hoaglin township, is a native of Richland County, where he was born February 8, 1838. His parents were Zepheniah and Sarah (Stoner) Harvey. His father, who was a native of Maryland, died about 1843.

Samuel B. Harvey remained in Richland County with his mother until he had reached his majority, when he started out to do for himself. He came to Van Wert County in the spring of 1859, and located in Hoaglin township, which has been his home ever since. In 1866 he purchased his present 80-acre farm, which he has put under excellent cultivation.

On March 19, 1864, Mr. Harvey was married to Martha C. Karr, who was born in Union County, Indiana, August 29, 1840. Her parents were Frederick and Elizabeth (Washburn) Karr, who moved to Preble County, Ohio, when she was a child. When she was about 18 they moved to Paulding County where they died. To Mr. and Mrs. Harvey were born five children, namely: Mary E., wife of Albert Eller; Lydia C., wife of N. F. Hattery; Minerva J., wife of Willis Black, of Union township; Henry A.; and Samuel E., all of whom live in Hoaglin township except

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DAVID W. EVANS

Minerva J. Mr. Harvey has a brother, John W., who lives in Van Wert. Samuel B. Harvey is known as a public spirited, upright and honorable man. For many years he was trustee of his township and served as president of the board.

DAVID W. EVANS, justice of the peace at Venedocia, has long been one of the leading citizens of York township and for years has been closely identified with all its important interests. He was born in Wales, in 1838, and is a son of William and Jane Evans.

The parents of David W. Evans came to the United States in 1839 and settled on a farm near Oak Hill, Jackson County, Ohio, William Evans, the father, being a man of thrift and ability. He accumulated 600 acres of land, only a small part of which he cultivated, as he was also interested in the industrial enterprises of his locality, and, in the course of time, became manager of the Cambria furnace. It was while he was superintending some building operations at this plant that he accidentally met his death, August 16, 1854. William Evans was survived by his widow and these children: David W.; Thomas, who died aged 27 years; Jane, who is the widow of David E. Evans; John W., a merchant in Van Wert County; William W., a farmer in Jennings township, Van Wert County; and Annie, who died in childhood. At a later date Mrs. Evans married Isaac T. Jones.

The large property left by William Evans, at the time of his death, remained intact until 1859, when, at the instance of David W., the eldest son, a division was made. The land was all situated in York township and David W. Evans' portion was 106 acres. To this acreage he has continued to add by purchase until he

now owns 335 acres, partly located in section 18, Jennings township, and partly in section 13, York township, the latter being the home farm. Mr. Evans settled here in 1861, the year of his marriage. In 1873 he built the handsome and comfortable brick residence, which is situated just west of the Welsh Presbyterian Church. Nothing has been omitted to make these farms productive and valuable, their owner having spent a large amount of capital in tiling and in the erection of good, substantial buildings. Although oil was discovered on his land as early as 1896, no special attempts were made to develop it until 1900, when experiments showed that wells could be profitably sunk and that in their output Mr. Evans possessed a source of large income. At present there are 19 wells flowing freely, the average depth being from 1,230 to 1,260 feet.

In 1861 Mr. Evans was married to Jane Bebb, who was a daughter of the late William and Margaret Bebb, and eight children were born to them, as follows: William B., a liveryman and farmer, residing at Venedocia; Margaret, who resides at Columbus, the widow of Elmer R. Owen, formerly of Newark, Ohio; Thomas Charles and John Elias (twins), the former deceased and the latter, a practicing dental surgeon at Lima, Ohio; Laura Ann; Martha, who died in infancy; David, who is the manager of his father's farms; and Mary, deceased. Thomas Charles, who was drowned June 17, 1890, while boating on the Blanchard River, near Findlay, Ohio, was, like his twin brother, highly gifted as a musician. The mother of the above named family died February 10, 1887, leaving a sorrowing family and a large circle of friends. She was a lady of many virtues, an active worker in the Calvinistic Methodist Church at Venedocia, and beloved for her unvarying kindness to all who came within the circle of her influence.

Mr. Evans can remember when Venedocia was represented by a single house, and when his present valuable farms were covered with woods. Some of the woodland he cleared off himself, but a large part he hired cleared, as he has had many other interests, a number of them being of a public character. For several years he taught school, and from this source accumulated considerable capital which he invested in land. It is almost impossible to mention any reputable public movement in York township in which he has not been concerned, his interests having been bound up with the development of this section for the past 45 years. In many instances his public spirit has brought him much vexation and loss of time and money, before the majority of his fellow-citizens could be brought to see what was for the common good. He was mainly instrumental in bringing the "Clover Leaf" Railroad to Venedocia, and in this enterprise was associated with the late Morgan H. Morgan. By the time the right of way was secured from Delphos through Venedocia he had expended large sums, while the substantial benefits of the new transportation line were enjoyed by all.

Mr. Evans has always believed that good roads, schools and churches were the best developers of a district, and he has been consistent in advocating all of these agencies. For 24 years he was a school director, serving frequently as president of the School Board and also as school trustee. For about 22 years he has served as justice of the peace, and has had more to do with the peaceable adjustment of business and family difficulties than any other individual in this section. So satisfactory have been his successive years of administration in this capacity that in the fall of 1905 he was again reelected for a term of three years. Mr. Evans has been no less prominent in religious affairs, having for over 40 years been secretary

of the Welsh Presbyterian Church at Venedocia and one of the elders almost since the time of his settlement here. He has also been particularly interested in the Sunday-school, having served as superintendent a great many years and always been a teacher of one of its classes. In marked degree, therefore, Mr. Evans enjoys the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens. He has always been ready to assist the worthy, has been a liberal supporter of many benevolent enterprises, and is a remarkably strong factor in the material progress and the religious and moral elevation of the community. His portrait accompanies this sketch.




JOSEPH M. KREIDER, a prominent citizen and representative farmer of Pleasant township, residing on his well-improved farm of 79 acres, situated in section 28, was born in 1851 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, coming first to Richland County, Ohio, and then to Van Wert County. He is a son of John R. and Sarah (Hersh) Kreider, both born in Pennsylvania and both members of old and prominent families in Lancaster County. In 1864 John R. Kreider removed from Richland to Van Wert County, settling in section 27, Pleasant township, where he died in 1880. His wife, highly esteemed for her womanly virtues and strong character, survives and continues to reside on the old farm. Her husband was a Republican, and at one time a member and liberal supporter of the Pleasant Grove Methodist Episcopal Church.

The surviving children of John R. Kreider and wife were: Joseph M., Naomi, wife of J. M. Baker, of Pleasant township; Jeremiah R., of the same township; Mary, wife of John Gearhizer, residing near Marion, Ohio; John

F., of Liberty township; Howard V., of Pleasant township; F. P., a doctor of Van Wert; and Clara, wife of Harry Hoghe, of Liberty township. Elias and Henry are deceased.

Joseph M. Kreider, the eldest of the family was 13 years of age when he accompanied his parents to Van Wert County, where he completed his education in the public schools. His training and interests have all been in an agricultural direction and he has proven himself one of the township's most successful farmers. Politically a Republican, his party has elected him to township offices on numerous occasions. He has served two terms (six years) as township trustee, during a portion of that period being president of the board; is a stanch friend of the public schools, and at present is a member of the School Board of Pleasant township.

In 1874 Mr. Kreider was married to Mary M. Henderson, who was born in Van Wert County, and is a daughter of the late John Henderson. They have three children, viz: Hattie A., wife of Charles Hermann, of Mercer County, Ohio; Bertha G., wife of Delmer Dietrich, of Mercer County, and Harry M. Mr. Kreider is a member of the Society of Friends, attending religious services at Antioch. He is a man of standing in his neighborhood, respected in public life and esteemed in private.

EORGE W. MCGAVREN, M. D., one of the leading professional men of Van Wert, who has distinguished himself in the field of medicine and surgery, belongs to one of the pioneer families of the State. Dr. McGavren was born in Wyandot County, Ohio, January 20, 1851, and is a son of Dr. Hugh C. and Margaret J. (Lenderman) McGavren.

The father of Dr. McGavren, for many

years an honored man and beloved physician, was born in Indiana County, Pennsylvania, July 30, 1825, and died at Van Wert, Ohio, February 27 1891. He was a child of four years when his parents moved to Columbiana County, Ohio, and was 10 years old when they settled permanently in the wilderness of Hardin County. He himself located in Wyandot County, Ohio, in 1847, and in 1853 the parents moved to Iowa where they both died—the father, aged 87 years, and the mother, at 83 years of age. In 1853, at Van Wert, Ohio, Hugh C. McGavren commenced the study of medicine, a profession for which the members of this family are obviously well adapted, the name being represented in this line of professional activity in greater numbers than any other in the State. In 1856 Dr. McGavren settled for practice at Rockford, Mercer County, removing in 1867 to Van Wert, where the remainder of his life was spent. He was one of the pioneer physicians here, one whose self-sacrificing labors and remarkable skill form an important chapter in the medical annals of the county. In 1847 he married Margaret J. Lenderman, who was born at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and they had five children, the survivors being: Mary C., wife of Dr. Holbrook, of Defiance, Ohio; George W., of Van Wert; and Olive, wife of W. G. Streit, of Van Wert.

With so distinguished a father in the field of medicine, it is not surprising that early in life our subject turned his attention and directed his studies toward this profession. He was graduated, in 1873, at the Eclectic Medical Institute, Cincinnati, and in 1877 took a post-graduate course at the Fort Wayne Medical College, which was followed in 1884-85, by a special post-graduate course at the New York Polyclinic. After his return from Cincinnati, in association with his father, Dr. Mc-

Gavren entered upon the practice of his profession, in Van Wert, where he has continued until the present, each year of practice adding to his prestige and prosperity. His remarkable skill in combating disease and relieving suffering has made his personality a comforting influence throughout the county, while his name is professionally honored, by his brethren of all medical schools. He has always been prominent in civic life, in the way of advancing sanitary and hygienic measures and in promoting good government, but he has consented to fill no strictly political office, although he is a staunch Republican.

In 1875 Dr. McGavren was married, first, to Florence W. Baker, who died within that year. His second marriage, April 19, 1877, was to Emma G. McKim, and they have one daughter—Nellie W. The family have a beautiful home, on the corner of Jefferson and Sycamore streets, where a generous hospitality is dispensed. Dr. McGavren's office comprises four well-appointed rooms in the McKim Block, situated in the business part of the city. He is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Van Wert Lodge, No. 218, F. & A. M., Van Wert Chapter, No. 71, R. A. M.; Ivanhoe Commandery, No. 30, K. T., of Van Wert; Ohio Sovereign Consistory and Mystic Shrine, being a 32nd degree Mason. He is also a member of the Elks and the Knights of Pythias.



WILLIAM H. HIGH, justice of the peace of Liberty township, and owner of 280 acres of valuable farm land in sections 26 and 27, was born in Liberty township, February 25, 1867, and is a son of John and Mary Ann (Siniff) High, and grandson of John High, Sr., who was a native of Germany.

John High, the father of our subject, was born in Cincinnati. In 1855, after the death of John High, Sr., his widow came to Delphos with her son, then about three years of age. He made his home with an uncle, Henry Sprain, until he was about 15 years of age, when he went to Liberty township and lived with his mother. He was married in Mercer County to Mary Ann Siniff, daughter of John and Nancy Ann Siniff, and became the father of four children: William H.; Oscar, of Upland, Indiana; Dorothy E. (Profit), who died in 1901; and Christopher, who lives on the old homestead in Liberty township.

William H. High was reared and educated in his native township, and on June 29, 1890, was married to Viola May Ries, a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Ries of York township. They have had seven children: Edith Wilma; Grace Elma; Daniel Albert; Hattie Annetta; Elizabeth Pearl; Wilbur Glen and Doyt Blain. After his marriage, Mr. High moved with his bride to York township and located on his farm of 42 acres, where they lived for seven years. He then traded that farm for the 80-acre farm, where he now lives, paying the difference in value. He did not move upon the farm, however, until three years later, which brings us down to 1900. In 1901 he added 40 acres to his original purchase, and in the fall of the same year bought another 40 acres; in the spring of 1902 he added 80 acres more and the next spring he purchased still another 40 acres, making a total of 280 acres, of which 200 are situated in section 27. He has 10 oil-wells on his farm, nine of which are operated by the Liberty Oil Company, of which Mr. High is a director and president. The other well is also leased. In 1903 and 1904 he erected the largest and most complete barn in the county. It has a cement floor, and is 34 by 120 and 34 by 60 feet.

Mr. High leases the farm land, and is practically living in retirement. It is his intention to devote his entire time from now on to buying, feeding and shipping stock. His sales are considered the events of the year in his community.

Mr. High is a Republican, and was elected justice of the peace in 1900 on the Republican ticket. His reelection in 1904 is an evidence of the esteem in which he is held. He is a director of the Farmers' Bank of Ohio City. He is a trustee and member of the Walnut Grove Methodist Episcopal Church and is superintendent of the Sunday-school. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees.

RICHARD E. SMITH, whose valuable farm is situated in section 32, Willshire township, is not only a good farmer, but he can justifiably lay claim to being a successful inventor. Mr. Smith was born on a farm within a mile and a half of Elida, Allen County, Ohio, on November 4, 1864, and is a son of William and Barbara (Conrod) (Bumgardner) Smith.

Martin Smith, the grandfather of our subject, owned at the time of death about 300 acres of land, and William Smith, his father, owned 500 acres in Allen and Van Wert counties. The latter was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and removed to Allen County in 1840, immediately after his marriage. He died just prior to the birth of our subject, from worry and excitement brought on, first by the death of his brother Jacob, who was accidentally killed, and the subsequent death of his father, all three dying within a period of two weeks. William Smith married Mrs. Barbara (Conrod) Bumgardner, who now resides on the old homestead near Elida, in the 81st year of her

age. On both sides Mr. Smith comes of families noted for their longevity, his maternal grandfather living to be 87 years old and his grandmother to be 94.

The children of William Smith and wife, 11 in number, all survive, as follows: Isabella (Reed), of Auglaize County; Martin; Taylor, who lives on the old homestead in Allen County; Harrison, of Lima; Jacob, living near Lima; George, living near Bluffton; William, living near Lima; Ellen (Bumgardner), of Elida; Mary (Keller), of Muskegon, Michigan; Sarah (Shook), of Muncie, Indiana; and Richard E.

Richard E. Smith remained on the home farm until his majority, and was educated in the local schools. He then went to Lima and three years worked by the day, moving then to St. Marys, where he went to work in the oil field. For about six years Mr. Smith remained at St. Marys, and then sold his place there and purchased 20 acres in Amanda township, Allen County, on which he lived until he came to his present farm four years ago. He has done all the developing here, the farm in 1902 being entirely unimproved. He has erected a comfortable dwelling and all necessary farm buildings, and carries on a general line of agriculture.

Mr. Smith belongs to a family of natural mechanical genius and he has put his talent to practical account. While working in the oil field at St. Marys, he conceived the idea of a repair apparatus for surface-oil pump-rods which he had patented May 29, 1900. Its great utility was recognized and he sold the invention to the St. Marys Drilling Company, and it is now in use in all local fields. Mr. Smith is now working on other inventions.

In 1890 Mr. Smith was married to Elizabeth Alexander, who was born at Allentown, and died May 30, 1905, aged 37 years and 10

days. She was a daughter of James and Lydia Alexander. Mr. and Mrs. Smith had five children, namely: Terry P., Violet Chloe, Lelia, Belva and Berlin.

Politically Mr. Smith is a Republican. He is a member of the United Brethren Church.

GEORGE W. NEWTON, who is prominent both in business and political life in Van Wert, mayor of the city and owner of the most extensive musical instrument business in the county, is a son of Gusta A. and Polly Ann (Baldwin) Newton, and was born March 30, 1851, in Beaver County, Pennsylvania. The grandparents of Mayor Newton were old residents of Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, his maternal great-grandfather, William Carns, having been the first sheriff of Lawrence and Beaver counties before they were divided. Thomas Lukens, his great-great-grandfather, was the first Surveyor General of Pennsylvania. Mr. Newton's father was a farmer in Lawrence County all his life and reared a family of 10 children.

George W. Newton was reared and educated in his native locality. In 1886 he came to Van Wert County, and embarked in the musical instrument line, being for a time a member of The Anderson-Newton Piano Company, manufacturers of pianos. Subsequently he withdrew from that connection, but has continued in the sale of musical publications and instruments. He has connections with musical organizations throughout the county and supplies the demand for all kinds of instruments on the market, carrying an average stock valued at \$5,000. In addition to his mercantile interests he is a large property owner, both in the city and county.

Mr. Newton's wife before marriage was Ida Webster, who is a daughter of A. W. Webster, a prominent resident of Van Wert. They have two children—Fred A. and Miles E. Their beautiful home is located at No. 215 North Vine street, Van Wert, and the family is actively identified with the Methodist Episcopal Church.

For a number of years Mr. Newton has been an active public man and a masterful force in the politics of his section, having been long identified with the management of Republican affairs in Van Wert County. He has been frequently honored by his party. In 1903 he was elected mayor of the city by a flattering majority, and his public career was marked by the same sound judgment and unquestioned integrity, which has already brought him honor as a business man.

JOSEPH M. ROLLER, who resides on his well-improved farm in section 10, Liberty township, was born in Mahoning County, Ohio, November 27, 1851, and is a son of John and Susanna (Fox) Roller.

John Roller was born in Greenford township, Mahoning County, Ohio, where he became a prominent farmer. His grandfather came with a brother to this country from Germany and settled in Mahoning County, where they were among the first settlers. John Roller, father of Joseph Roller, was reared in his native county, and there was married to Susanna Fox. They had nine children, five of whom are living. The record is as follows: Martha (Rice), now deceased; Albert J., and Allen (twins)—the latter died aged 20 years and Albert J. lives in Jennings township; Urban, deceased at the age of 35; Joseph M., our subject; Mary Jane (Wentz), who lives in

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MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM THOMPSON EXLINE

Jennings township; John who lives in Michigan; Wilson, who lives in York township, and Harriet, who died in 1870 at the age of five. John Roller moved from Columbiana County to Van Wert County, in September, 1865, and settled in York township, where he bought a farm of 60 acres. This was situated on the county line between Van Wert and Mercer counties, 20 acres being in Mercer County. He only lived 11 months after moving to Van Wert County, his death occurring in 1866. His widow is still living in Jennings township.

Joseph M. Roller received his primary schooling in Mahoning County, and was 14 years old when his father removed to Van Wert County. He attended school one winter after locating in Van Wert County. Later he took a course at the Ohio Normal University at Ada and also attended a private school for two seasons in his own district. He afterward taught school in Van Wert County for seven winters, and one winter in Mercer County. On September 20, 1877, he was married to Flora Black, a daughter of William and Margaret (Like) Black.

William Black was a native of Perry County, Ohio, where he was reared, educated and married. He enlisted as a private in the 162nd Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., later became a corporal and was discharged at the close of the war as a sergeant. His family had in the meantime moved to Paulding County, where he joined them at the close of the war. He remained there 11 years, and in 1876 moved to York township, Van Wert County, where he lived for about five years. Later he bought a farm of 70 acres in Jennings township, where he is now living.

Mr. and Mrs. Roller have had nine children, namely: Edna L., who married D. C. Gamble, of Van Wert, and has three children—Doyt, Vora and Fernie; Ethel, who married

Bert Klinger, of Haviland, Paulding County, and has two children—Ruby and Carmen; Allen T., born January 3, 1881, who died September 18, 1882; Olive, who married Forest Williams, of Ohio City, and has one child—Cloyd; Clyde who lives at home; Emmett, who attends high school at Ohio City; Glen; Guy; and Alena.

Mr. Roller lived for several years after his marriage in York township, and one summer in Ridge township. In 1893 he bought 40 acres in Liberty township, but did not move upon the place until 1896. He built his present house in 1899, and the barn was erected in 1897. He has been a member of the School Board, and was at one time candidate for county surveyor on the Democratic ticket, but was defeated. He is one of the leading members of the Methodist Church and has several times been superintendent of the Sunday-school. He is the recording steward of the circuit, and local steward of the church. He belongs to the Knights of the Maccabees.



WILLIAM THOMPSON EXLINE, now retired and residing on his large estate of over 452 acres of land, his home being in section 17, Liberty township, is one of the representative men of this locality and one who has had much practical experience in the development of that great source of wealth—the oil fields in the vicinity of Ohio City. He was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, September 22, 1837, and is a son of Rev. Valentine and Evaline (Thompson) Exline.

The Exline family is of Swiss extraction, and the name can be traced centuries back to the period when the Protestant Swiss were persecuted on account of their religious opinions.

History tells of an early martyr—an ancestor of the present family—whose name was written Excellent Axline, and who suffered at the stake on account of his religious convictions. The first member of this old family to come to America was Christopher Axline or Exline, as the name came to be generally spelled, who located his home in Virginia. There his son Adam was born, who married and reared his family near Winchester, in the Shenandoah Valley. There was born Bernard Exline, the grandfather of William T., and then the family seems to have branched out, one section settling in Pennsylvania. Valentine Exline, father of our subject, was born in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, April 4, 1809, and was one of four sons who received a farm from his father. John Axline, brother of Adam, was of the family branch that remained in Virginia, following the old ways and retaining the old spelling of the name. Subsequently the descendants of John Axline moved to Muskingum County, Ohio, where they still cling to the old Swiss spelling.

The Taylor family, with which the mother of our subject was connected (John Taylor being her maternal grandfather), is well-known to be one of the oldest in Virginia, and it has produced one President of the United States, as well as many noted statesmen and political heroes. She was a daughter of William Redman and Sarah (Taylor) Thompson, both of old Virginia families, and was born in 1814 and died in June, 1894.

In 1846 Rev. Valentine Exline, who was a minister in the Lutheran Church, moved from Tuscarawas County to Allen County and settled on a rented farm. As early as 1837 he had entered 316 acres of wild land in Liberty township, Van Wert County. In 1850 he built a log cabin here, in the midst of a wilderness, and in 1851 planted wheat on his land, but did not set-

tle on it until May, 1852. For many years he was concerned in the work of the ministry and was one of the early and well-known pioneer preachers. His death occurred January 5, 1887.

William Thompson Exline was nine years old when his parents settled in Allen County and was 15 when they removed to Van Wert County. Here he assisted his father to clear up the land—a mighty task in those days when little machinery was used to do the hardest part of the work. His education was the best that the times and localities afforded. When he was 18 years old, he was teaching school, being thus employed for five winters preceding the Civil War. On August 5, 1862, at Lima, Ohio, he enlisted for the Union service in Company A, 99th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and remained at his post of duty until the close of hostilities. At the storming of Lookout Mountain he was severely wounded, being first sent to a hospital at Bridgeport, Alabama, and later to the officers' hospital at Nashville, Tennessee. As soon as he was sufficiently recovered, he was given a furlough of 30 days and came home to recuperate. For bravery and gallantry on the field of battle, Mr. Exline received well merited promotion. Upon entering the service he was made 2nd lieutenant of his company, and in November, 1862, was promoted to be 1st lieutenant. At the battle of Stone River, the company lost heavily and when its captain, the lamented W. C. Scott, fell, Lieutenant Exline assumed command and was mustered out as captain of Company A, 50th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., reaching home July 22, 1865. Two days later, as a mark of public appreciation of his loyal services, Captain Exline was nominated for the position of auditor of Van Wert County, to which he was subsequently elected and served with efficiency through one term of two years. In 1878 he was again elected county

auditor and served for three years. The election was something of a Republican triumph, as he had a strong Democratic opponent. He was re-elected in 1881 for a second consecutive term of three years. At one time he also served as township treasurer, holding that office in Liberty township for five years. For many years he was a very prominent factor in politics throughout his section of the county but of late has contented himself with simply casting his vote.

For eight years Mr. Exline was superintendent of the Ohio Wheel Works at Delphos, a position he resigned in order to give his attention to oil development. He is familiar with all the practical workings of an oil field, and more than any other, he was the man who was instrumental in opening the oil field in the vicinity of Ohio City. His own land is rich in oil, and at the present time he has seven producing wells. Recently, with other heirs of Rev. Valentine Exline, he sold 160 acres of farm land to James M. Dull, who paid the sum of \$12,000 in cash. He still retains over 452½ acres of land, which is really made up of three valuable farms. For some time he has lived retired from any active agricultural operations, having a capable farmer as a superintendent.

On December 21, 1865, Mr. Exline was united in marriage with Esther Scott, who is a daughter of Richard and Margaret Scott, then of Putnam, but formerly of Warren County, Ohio. Richard Scott died in 1884, but Mrs. Scott, now in her 88th year, still survives and resides with Mr. and Mrs. Exline. The latter have reared a family of seven children, these being: Eva May, who married Joseph Augustus Foor and resides in Denver, Colorado; Scott Leroy, a prominent and wealthy citizen of Cleveland, Ohio, who married Sarah Roberts; William Grant, who married Della Nothnagle and resides in Cleveland, where he is the

assistant manager of the Exline Publishing Company, an important business enterprise; and Margaret, Estella, Ethel and Georgia, who all reside at home. Mr. Exline is a well-read, intelligent man, and has given all his children many educational advantages, fitting them to acceptably fill the business and social positions to which his prominence as a man of affairs has assisted them.

For many years Mr. Exline has been one of the leading members of the Lutheran Church in Liberty township, of which he is a trustee, the local organization belonging to the General Synod of the Lutheran Church. His life has not only been marked by unusual business enterprise, but he possesses the esteem of those with whom he has come in contact because of his adherence to honorable methods. A picture of Mr. and Mrs. Exline accompanies this sketch.

JOHAN R. HAVENS, a prominent citizen of Pleasant township, president of the board of township trustees and a leading agriculturist, was born in Franklin County, Ohio, July 31, 1871, and is a son of Henry E. and Mary (Sprague) Havens. The Havens family which is a very old one in Ohio, was founded in Franklin County by the great-grandfather of John R. Havens. The paternal grandparents were John and Rebecca (Fancher) Havens, the former of whom was born in New Jersey and the latter in New York. John Haven was a lad of nine years when his parents left New Jersey and came to Ohio as pioneers. During his youth he worked on the Ohio Canal, receiving at first the sum of \$8 per month. He proved his efficiency and later was made a foreman of construction, at a salary of \$16 per month. These figures are interesting, especially in comparison with the

salaries paid for similar work and responsibility at the present. John Havens, the grandfather, settled permanently in Franklin County where he eventually acquired some 800 acres of land, and passed his last days in the vicinity of Columbus.

Henry E. Havens, father of John R., resides on his well-cultivated farm of 80 acres, in section 2, Pleasant township, Van Wert County, which he has occupied since 1884. He was born August 13, 1837, in Franklin County Ohio, where he was liberally educated for his time, and where as a farmer he passed a portion of his mature life. On March 9, 1862, Mr. Havens was married in Franklin County, to Mary Sprague, a daughter of William and Mary Sprague. The children of this marriage are: Nellie, wife of Franklin Johnson, of Columbus, Ohio; Mary, wife of M. H. Osborn, a well-known attorney of Van Wert; John R., of Pleasant township; Lucy, wife of Paulus Weisheimer, of Columbus, Ohio; and Florence, a teacher in the public schools of Columbus. Politically, Henry E. Havens is a Republican. Both he and his wife are members of the Christian Church at Van Wert, in which he is one of the elders.

In boyhood John R. Havens accompanied his parents to Van Wert County. After completing the common-school course, he spent two years at the Ohio Normal University at Ada, and the two following years at the Normal University at Wauseon, Ohio, thus thoroughly preparing himself for the exacting profession of a teacher. For several years thereafter Mr. Havens taught school in Van Wert County, and during his last year in the educational field was superintendent of the High School at Grover Hill, Paulding County, Ohio. Since then he has given his entire attention to agricultural pursuits and to the performance of his duties in connection with the township of-

fices to which his fellow-citizens have elected him. Politically he is a Republican, and is serving his second year as township trustee, being president of the board.

On October 29, 1895, Mr. Havens was married to Cora Hardesty, a daughter of Amos and Caroline (Kauffman) Hardesty, residents of Paulding County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Havens have two children—Howard and Ruth. Both he and his wife are members of the Christian Church, at Van Wert.

HENRY MORKOETTER, a leading agriculturist of Washington township, residing on his farm of 80 acres, situated in section 34, was born in this township May 20, 1850, about one mile east of his present home, in section 35, and is a son of Balse and Mary Elizabeth (Lause) Morkoetter, old residents of that township. His father, who was born in Hanover, Germany, came to America about 1846 and settled first in Allen County, where he owned 40 acres of land, but which he never occupied as a homestead. He was married to Mary Elizabeth Lause in the old log Catholic Church in Delphos by Father John Otto Bredeick. He and his father-in-law, John Henry Lause, bought 160 acres of land in section 35, and were the first tax-payers on the land. Mr. and Mrs. Balse Morkoetter raised a family of eight children, seven of whom are still living, as follows: Henry; Gertrude (Mrs. John Goeble); Christian; Elizabeth (Mrs. Frank Kaverman); Theresa (Mrs. Samuel Alexander), of Delphos; Anna (Mrs. William Bindel), of St. Louis, Missouri; and John, who resides near Delphos. Balse Morkoetter died June 28, 1872; his wife survived him many years, dying December 10, 1893.

Henry Morkoetter was reared and educated in Van Wert County. He married Barbara Koller, a daughter of George and Barbara (Renidl) Koller, who were natives of Bavaria, but were married in Cleveland, Ohio, and had eight children, four of whom still live, namely: Barbara wife of our subject; Mrs. George Wolke, formerly of Covington, Kentucky; Mrs. Mollie Vonderembse, of Delphos, and John, of Chicago. George Koller died in 1900 aged 83 years; his widow resides in Delphos.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Morkoetter have had eight children, all of whom are living, viz.: Mamie, wife of Gregory Wolfe, of Delphos, and the mother of two children—Arvella and Florence; Lena who married Joseph Metzger, Jr., of Allen County, and has two children—Lucile and Philomene; George; Matilda (Mrs. Thomas Gengler), whose husband is a farmer in Allen County; Philomene, Theodore; Edward and Richard.

Mr. and Mrs. Morkoetter have lived on their present farm since October, 1883, when they purchased the land. They are Catholics, being communicants of the Church of St. John the Baptist at Landeck. Mrs. Morkoetter is a member of the Altar Society. She has the reputation around Delphos of making the finest butter of any one in the locality, and is also a breeder of chickens, ducks, turkeys and other poultry.

DAVID ASHBAUGH. Among the well-known and highly respected citizens of Jackson township, who have passed away, was the late David Ashbaugh, whose death occurred on February 28, 1883. He was born in Hocking County, Ohio, January 1, 1844, and was a son of David Ashbaugh, who was a very early settler in that county.

The late David Ashbaugh was reared in his native county and obtained his education in the public schools. He grew to man's estate with an excellent knowledge of farming, and with industrious, temperate habits. Thus in early life he made many friends whom he retained through a long and useful life.

On February 9, 1865, Mr. Ashbaugh was married to Catherine Weidener, who was born in Hocking County, Ohio, February 1, 1845, and is a daughter of Frederick and Catherine Weidener, natives of Germany, who came in youth to Hocking County with their parents, who were very early settlers in that part of Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Ashbaugh had seven children, all sons, as follows: Elmer E., William L., James A. and Charles E., all of Jackson township; Alvaro S. of Paulding County; and David S. and Nora C., both of Jackson township.

After his marriage, David Ashbaugh continued to reside in Hocking County for some years, and then moved to Allen County where he lived until the spring of 1882, when he came to Van Wert County and located near Wetsel. Here he died in the following year before he had completed his plans for a permanent home.

In 1884 Mrs. Ashbaugh, with her son, settled on the present home farm of 80 acres, which is situated in section 18, Jackson township. At that time the whole farm was a great woods, and it required much industry and good management to bring about its present high state of cultivation. Mrs. Ashbaugh, in a very interesting way, can relate many pioneer experiences. She is a consistent member of the Lutheran Church at Wetsel.

NOAH C. ASHBAUGH, one of the sons of Mrs. Ashbaugh, was born in Allen County, Ohio, September 30, 1876. On October 7, 1903, he was married to Ortha M. Stemen, who is a daughter of David Stemen, of Wash-

ington township, Van Wert County. Mrs. Noah C. Ashbaugh died April 2, 1905, leaving an infant son, David L., who was born March 5, 1905.

Politically Noah C. Ashbaugh, like his father, is a Democrat. He is a well-known and highly regarded citizen.

J CONRAD RUPRIGHT. Probably no citizen of Van Wert is entitled to a greater share of credit for the steady growth and prosperity of the city during the past 30 years, than J. Conrad Rupright, junior partner of Rupright Brothers, the well-known manufacturers of tile and brick, whose enterprise and energy have made them one of the leading firms in Van Wert County. Mr. Rupright was born October 15, 1851, in Union County, Ohio, on the farm where he spent the years intervening between infancy and manhood. He attended the district school and assisted in the farm labors until he had reached his 21st year, when he came to Van Wert and for two years was in the employ of his brother, John George Rupright. He then entered the grocery business in partnership with Philip Scaer, but after one year withdrew and engaged independently in the same line for a couple of years. In 1877 the present partnership with John George Rupright was formed, and the honorable and upright dealings of the firm have brought a steady and permanent increase of business. Rupright Brothers also deal in coal, the sales of this commodity forming an important branch of the business. J. Conrad Rupright is also creditably identified with the municipal affairs of Van Wert, in the election of November, 1905, having been elected its city treasurer.

Mr. Rupright was married December 12,

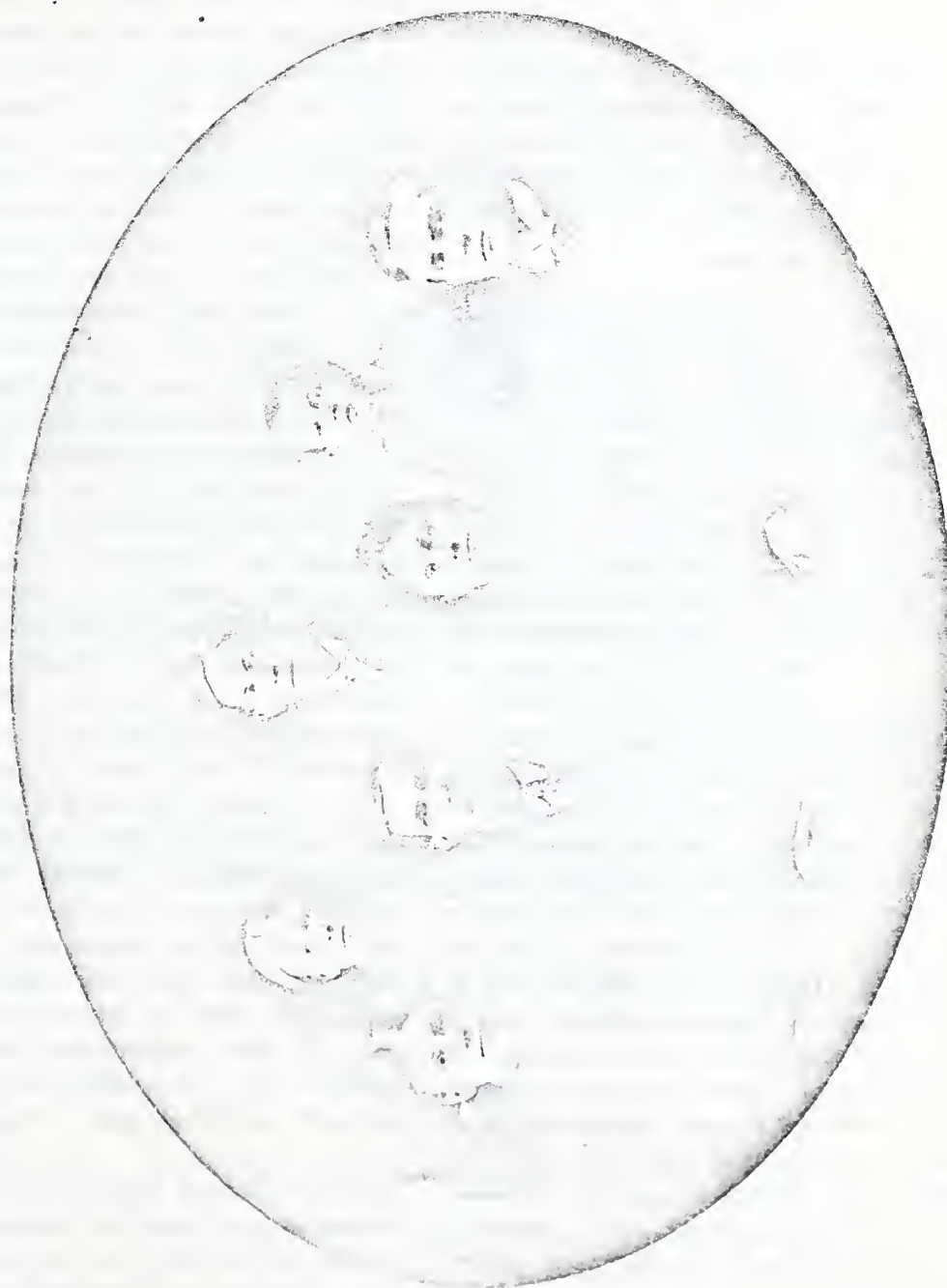
1878, at Van Wert, to Elizabeth German, daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (Smith) German. Mrs. Rupright was born in Van Wert on March 19, 1859, and has always enjoyed a large circle of friends. They have two children—Otto C. and Walter A. The family are consistent members of the German Lutheran Church, of which Mr. Rupright is treasurer, and are prominent in both religious and social circles.

HENRY CLAY WILLIAMS, one of the most highly esteemed citizens and large land owners of Liberty township, residing on a farm of 172 acres, situated in section 16, was born in Mayfield, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, January 15, 1839. His parents were Daniel and Alice (Blish) Williams.

Daniel Williams was of Scotch descent, his father having been a native of Scotland. His wife's father was a native of Germany. Mr. Williams and his wife were born in Connecticut. Removing from that State, they settled in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, where Mr. Williams followed his trade as a carpenter and joiner, also operating a farm which he owned. Here he died in 1843, at the age of 53 years. His wife died October 11, 1888, in her 82nd year.

Henry Clay Williams was reared and educated in Cuyahoga County, where he remained until he was 21 years of age. In 1860 he joined a party to go to California in search of gold. He returned in the winter of 1867-68 and located in Van Wert County, where he and his brother, Daniel B., bought a sawmill in Liberty township, and also a farm of 280 acres. He continued in the sawmill business until 1881, and since that time has been engaged in clearing and farming the land which

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MIR. AND MRS. FRANK A. POLING AND FAMILY


he bought upon his return from the West. He is now practically living in retirement. Besides his farm, which lies just outside the corporation lines of Ohio City, he owns considerable property, comprising several town lots, a fine residence property on Main street, and a business block on the corner of Main and Jefferson streets within the city limits. He at one time owned 13 acres within the corporation lines, which he divided into town lots and sold. A great many of these were in the section in Ohio City that is bounded by the Erie Railroad and Carmean street on the north, Williams street on the west, Shane street on the east and the "Clover Leaf" Railroad on the south.

Mr. Williams was first married on October 21, 1869, to Anna Catherine Brown, who died January 30, 1875, at the age of 29 years, leaving two children: Alice Daisy, who married Otto Pollock, of Cumberland, Iowa, and has five children—Harold, Catherine, Frances and Ruth and Ruby (twins), and Cora, at one time a teacher in the Van Wert County schools who died April 27, 1900. Mrs. Williams was a member of the Lutheran Church.

On October 5, 1876, Mr. Williams married Catherine Dobson, a daughter of Hugh Dobson. To them were born three children: Chauncy H., who married a Miss Ord on December 26, 1905, and lives near Colorado Springs, Colorado, on a large stock farm owned by his father-in-law; Anna M., who lives at home; and William H. Mrs. Williams was a Lutheran in religious belief. She died July 13, 1891.

In 1881 Mr. Williams erected his present large brick house. He sawed all the lumber and made with his own hands all the brick in the house. He also made all the brick used in the Brewer schoolhouse, which has since been torn down and replaced by a larger building. He was never engaged in the brick business,

and only made those required in building his residence and the schoolhouse. He is a natural mechanic and has done considerable blacksmithing. Mr. Williams has been a member of the School Board for nine years and was president of the board for two terms. He has also served as supervisor of Liberty township. Paternally, he is a Mason.

RANK A. POLING, treasurer-elect of Van Wert County, is a successful agriculturist of Ridge township where he owns a farm of 83 acres. Mr. Poling was born in Barbour County, Virginia (now West Virginia), August 4, 1857, and is a son of Harvey and Mary (Markley) Poling, his father being also a native of that State, while his mother was born in Maryland. The latter died in 1880. The father is still living, being now in his 86th year.

Frank A. Poling received his early education in a private school in West Virginia, and later entered the University of West Virginia at Morgantown, where he pursued a three years' course previous to teaching school. In 1880 he came north to Ohio and engaged in teaching in Union County for one school year, and in 1881 came to Van Wert County. Here he both taught and successfully conducted a farm in Hoaglin township. This combining of the work of a farmer and a teacher was continued for some 13 years. In 1888 he purchased his recent farm of 83 acres in Ridge township. He then relinquished his school work and devoted his attention exclusively to agriculture. His farming operations are carried on along scientific lines and few farmers can show more pleasing or profitable results than his.

On August 15, 1885, Mr. Poling was married to Minnie Crader of Marysville, Ohio, and

a family of five children have been born to them—Charles N., William L., Mae, Mary A. and Doyt. Mr. Poling is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and a most upright, enterprising citizen. He is a Republican, and has been chosen to fill a number of public offices since locating in this county. While a member of the School Board, he was made its president, and the work done under his administration resulted most happily for the schools of Ridge township. While a resident of Hoaglin township, Mr. Poling served as assessor two terms and has been justice of the peace in Ridge township for nine years. He was recently elected Treasurer of the county by a very flattering vote and is one of the most popular men in the county. Fraternally he is a member of Abanaki Tent, Improved Order of Red Men and of Alpha Lodge, No. 1, Home Guards of America, both of Van Wert. A picture of Mr. and Mrs. Poling and their children accompanies this sketch.

REV. JAMES M. SHERER, of the United Brethren Church, has been a valued minister in this religious body for the past 15 years. He resides on his 60-acre farm in sections 8 and 9, Jennings township. Mr. Sherer was born in Spencer township, Allen County, Ohio, January 1, 1856, and is a son of Abram W. and Sarah (Miller) Sherer.

The record of the Sherer family is clearly traced to the time of the great-grandfather of Rev. James Sherer—George Sherer, who was married in Virginia to Elizabeth Coler. The latter was born in 1779, and died December 20, 1848. James Sherer, a son of this union, and the grandfather of our subject, was born February 1, 1810, and died May 15, 1895. On February 3, 1834, he married Rebecca Nelson,

who was born in Coshocton County, Ohio, September 26, 1818, and died September 30, 1848. They had these children: Abram W., Lucinda, Anthony, Huldah, Louisa, Sarah E. and Rebecca; the father of our subject being the only survivor.


In 1853 Abram W. Sherer, who was born in Coshocton County, Ohio, June 13, 1835, accompanied his parents to Allen County. His father entered 80 acres in section 3, Spencer township, and Abram W. Sherer still retains and occupies the old homestead. His life has been an entirely agricultural one. He married Sarah Miller, who was born October 12, 1838 and died March 6, 1863. They had four children, namely: James M.; Fannie, born February 22, 1858; Rebecca, born March 3, 1860, and an infant who died unnamed.

James M. Sherer was reared a farmer boy, and was educated in the district schools. He was a man of mature judgment when he entered the ministry of the United Brethren Church, in September, 1890, in which he has been active ever since. During the first two years his work was mainly of a local character, and then his sphere was widened and covered Allen, Hardin, Auglaize and Putnam counties, including Zanesville, Indiana. In 1894 he was ordained under Bishop H. T. Barnaby, at the annual conference, in Union Chapel, Mercer County. His subsequent charges were: Monticello circuit, Kenton mission, Olive branch, Elida, Zanesville (Indiana), Miami and Twelve-Mile circuit.

In 1877 Mr. Sherer came to his present home—a valuable property consisting of 60 acres, 45 of which he has cleared, the rest having been cleared when he purchased it. His land has proved exceedingly fertile, his corn yielding under his fine methods of tillage, 50 bushels and over to the acre, and his oats fully 30 and over. Mr. Sherer successfully operates

his farm and continues to improve it. When he settled here, it was almost entirely woodland, and a log cabin was the sole building. Now a handsome, comfortable residence stands in its place, and substantial barns and granaries shelter fine stock and store the fruitful yields of the farm.

On July 25, 1877, Mr. Sherer was married to Ella Garee, who was born April 16, 1860, in Allen County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Henry and Sarah Jane (Rupert) Garee and a granddaughter of Louis and Sarah (Wagner) Rupert, pioneers in Allen County. Louis Rupert still survives, being a venerable man of 92 years. Mr. and Mrs. Sherer have six children, as follows: H. F., who married Elhora-Hance, has three children, and resides in Van Wert County; Emma Florence, who married John Wilkins, of Allen County, and has three children; Abram, residing at home; Bessie Pearl, who married David Heiss, has one child and resides on the home place; and Clara Belle and William Floyd, both living at home. Mr. Sherer is one of the trustees of the United Brethren Church at Monticello. While pursuing his agricultural activities with excellent results, he devotes a great deal of time to his religious duties. His people admire and esteem him, and they know that he is ever ready to befriend them, and in time of need to give them the most practical kind of sympathy. Politically he is a Republican and is serving his second term as justice of the peace in Jennings township.

EORGE W. STRIPE, a well-known agriculturist of Van Wert County, was born and reared on a farm in section 29, Hoaglin township, where he now resides. He was born October 11, 1860, and is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth

(Harvey) Stripe—one of four surviving children, namely: John, a resident of Indiana; William H., of Hoaglin township; Jacob L., of Van Wert; and George W. Jacob Stripe was a native of this State, and at an early day came to Van Wert County, where he entered a large tract of land from the government, in what is now Hoaglin township. Here he resided until his death in 1882, when the county lost a reliable, honorable citizen.

George W. Stripe attended the public schools during his boyhood, and has always been interested in husbandry, being known as one of the best farmers in the township. He was married January 21, 1885, to Hermia A. Hattery, who was born on the farm now occupied by our subject, her parents being Nathaniel and Ellen (Acheson) Hattery. Both parents were natives of Ohio, the father coming to this county from Carroll County when a young man and entering the land which is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stripe. At that time Van Wert was but a small hamlet, and no roads had been laid out in the vicinity of his land. Mr. Acheson was a Republican in politics, public-spirited to a degree and took an active interest in township affairs, serving at one time as treasurer of the township. He was a member of the Van Wert County Agricultural Society of which he served as president; was affiliated with the Royal Arcanum and was a consistent member of the First Presbyterian Church of Van Wert. He died March 12, 1882 and is survived by six children, viz.: Elizabeth, wife of A. A. Giffin, of Hoaglin township; Thomas F., of Van Wert; Mary E., wife of H. K. Vincent, of Van Wert; Hermia A., wife of George W. Stripe; Margaret E., wife of S. W. Long, of Van Wert; and Nathaniel.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Stripe, namely: Marie, and one that

passed away. Mr. Stripe is a Democrat. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. and Marion Encampment at Van Wert, and is also a member of Alpha Lodge, No. 1, Home Guards of Amercia, of Van Wert. Mrs. Stripe and her daughter also hold memberships in the latter organization. The family are highly esteemed by every one. Mr. Stripe is a director of the Victor Horse Breeding Company.



WILLIAM H. PENNELL, vice-president of the People's Savings Bank, of Van Wert, and one of the city's representative men, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, April 18, 1843, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Baker) Pennell. Mr. Pennell is one of a family of 12 children, and was educated in the public schools of Fairfield County. He was but a lad when he offered his services in defense of his country, at the opening of the Civil war, first serving for three months in the 17th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf. In 1862 he reenlisted in Company D, 99th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and having been detailed as a druggist in the medical department, continued to serve until his honorable discharge in 1865.

In September, 1865, Mr. Pennell came to Van Wert and for a time was engaged in a plaster business, but later accepted the position of cashier in the Van Wert National Bank, with which he remained connected for the succeeding 10 years. After a few years of comparative retirement, he again entered into active business relations, assuming the position of vice-president of the People's Savings Bank of Van Wert. Mr. Pennell stands very high in banking circles, and, with his family, occupies a prominent place in the educational and social movements of the city.

At Van Wert, Mr. Pennell was married

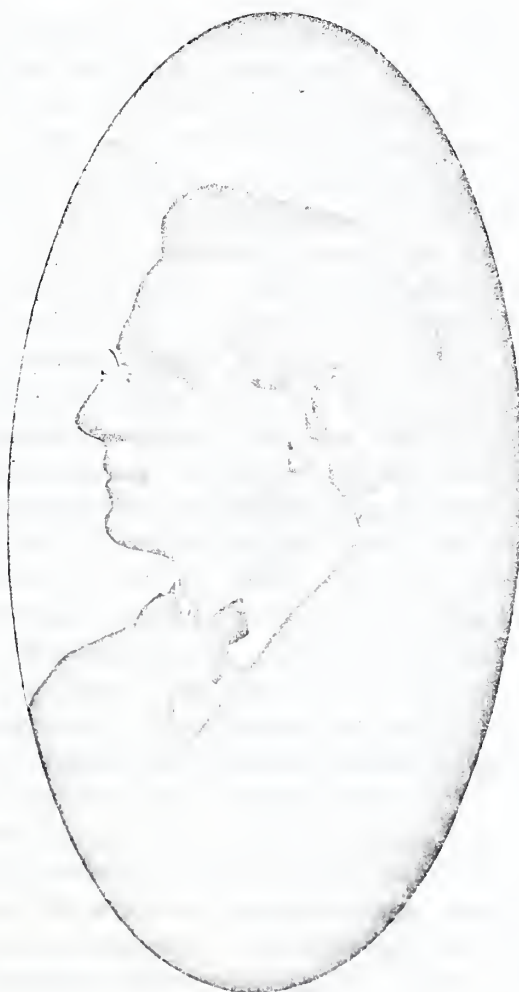
to Percelia, daughter of John Zimmerman, and they are the parents of two sons—Charles and Frank H.—enterprising young businessmen, who own and operate the leading drug store of the city. Mr. Pennell owns one of the luxurious homes on South Washington street, and is, in all respects, one of the most substantial citizens of Van Wert. Politically he is affiliated with the Republican party. He is a liberal supporter of the Lutheran Church.



JACOB A. WISE, township trustee and owner of a fine farm of 80 acres situated in section 1, Liberty township, was born November 5, 1865, in this township, and is a son of George Michael and Elizabeth (Hertel) Wise, who were both natives of Germany.

George M. Wise was born February 29, 1816, in Germany and later came to this country and settled in Philadelphia, where he ran a bakery. He was married on March 9, 1847, to Elizabeth Hertel, and shortly after his marriage sold the bakery and moved to Bethlehem, Stark County, Ohio. In 1852 he moved to Liberty township, Van Wert County, where he purchased a farm of 80 acres, which was mostly timberland. This he cleared and built a log house. He added to this farm from time to time until he owned 320 acres of land, besides several dwelling houses and a building in Van Wert in which a grocery store was conducted. Before his death on March 21, 1898, he sold the greater part of this land to his sons. He was the father of nine children, namely: George J., who lives in Liberty township; Mary, who married David Elick, of Paulding County, and is now deceased; Elizabeth, who died during infancy; Susan, who is the widow of William Davis—she operates a grocery store in Van Wert; Catherine, now deceased,


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JOHN W. FISHER

who was the wife of C. T. Bailey; Adam, who is a miller in Van Wert; Michael, who lives in Liberty township; Jacob; and Agatha, who married Rev. J. A. Mosier, of Indianapolis. Mrs. Wise was born April 4, 1825, and died April 9, 1800.

Jacob Wise was reared and educated in his native township, and has spent the whole of his life here engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was married on November 6, 1887, to Josephine Sidle, a daughter of James and Elizabeth Sidle, of Pleasant township. Mrs. Sidle died in 1873; her husband's death occurred 10 years later in 1883. To Mr. and Mrs. Wise have been born nine children: Goldie; Lillian; Ilo; Daisy; Grover, deceased at the age of one year; Naomi; Lucile, Waldo and an infant not yet named. After his marriage Mr. Wise first went to housekeeping on the farm adjoining the one now occupied by his brother, and the next year moved to the farm of 80 acres which he still occupies. He has made many substantial improvements on the farm, erecting his large frame house in 1890, and five years later the fine large barn. He also owns one lot and two residences in Van Wert. Politically Mr. Wise is identified with the Democratic party, and has served in several township offices. He was for six years one of the school directors, and, at present he is one of the township trustees. He is one of the leading members of St. Peter's Evangelical Church and a teacher in the Sunday-school.

 OHN W. FISHER, mayor of Delphos, and editor and proprietor of the *Delphos Courant*, is a citizen who enjoys in a large degree the confidence and esteem of his fellow-townsmen who have known him for a number of years in both the newspaper field and in official life. He is still

a young man, having been born March 24, 1874, at Columbus Grove, Putnam County, Ohio.

In November, 1880, Mr. Fisher accompanied his parents to Delphos, where his father died and the brothers and sisters married, and established homes of their own. He was educated in the public schools and his ambition was to prepare for college, but at the time when his aim seemed about to be realized his father met with financial reverses which changed his course in life. Putting aside his personal ambitions, with the cheerful manner and practical outlook which have ever been noted characteristics, Mr. Fisher obtained employment first with W. T. Dolbey, in the express and newsstand business, and later with C. M. Tolan, who was then the publisher of the *Delphos Weekly Herald*, his resolve being then to learn the printing business. Later he was employed at Van Wert in both the *Times* and the *Bulletin* offices, and then removed to Toledo, where he was connected with the *Blade*.

During the winter of 1893-94 Mr. Fisher returned to Delphos, where he established an agency for the *Lima Times-Democrat*, and during this period his energy in securing pertinent articles concerning Delphos for publication in the journal which he represented, brought him into very favorable local notice. Among those who noted Mr. Fisher's success was Mr. Tolan, who established the *Delphos Daily Herald*, securing Mr. Fisher as city editor. One year later the *Herald* was sold to Gasson & Sentz, and Mr. Fisher continued with the new firm until in January, 1902, when he bought the *Delphos Courant* from E. B. Walkup.

Mr. Fisher has always been a consistent Democrat and, along with his continued work for the welfare of his city, has also labored for the success of his party. In 1900 he was elected city clerk and was re-elected in 1902 and in

1903, his official life proving satisfactory to all concerned. When he announced his candidacy for the mayoralty, he met encouragement on every side, and his election was almost a matter of course, in a great measure on account of his personal popularity. Mr. Fisher is known to be honest, and fearless of opposition when he advocates necessary municipal reforms. Able, alert, having the best interests of the city at heart, with a ready comprehension of what these are, his administration promises much for the permanent progress of Delphos.

Mr. Fisher was married May 16, 1896, to Mary J. Kolb, of Delphos, daughter of George and Mary M. (Beck) Kolb, natives of Somerset, Ohio, and New York State, respectively. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher have four children living, and one deceased, viz.: Vera Leola, born March 3, 1897; Howard Francis, who died October 3, 1904, aged six years; Earl James, born March 20, 1901; Eula Christina, born August 2, 1903; and Olga Catherine, born November 25, 1905. The family are members of St. John's Catholic Church. Personally Mr. Fisher is a member of several societies, among which are the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Knights of America, Catholic Knights of Ohio, Improved Order of Red Men and Knights of the Maccabees. His portrait accompanies this sketch.

REV. SILAS SHERMAN HUNTER, a minister of the Church of God and also one of the successful agriculturists of Union township, where he owns a fine farm of 100 acres in section 7, was born in Morrow County, Ohio, September 9, 1844, a son of Kilbreath and Delilah (Lindsley) Hunter. The father of Mr. Hunter was born in Licking County, Ohio, and in boyhood

accompanied his parents to Morrow County. In that county he married Delilah Lindsley, who died when her son, Silas S., was eight years of age. The father was a life-long farmer. His later years were spent with his children and he died at the home of his eldest son, at the age of 72 years. His three children were: John, now a resident of Willow Springs, Missouri, and a survivor of the Civil War; Silas S., of this sketch; and William Morgan, who resides near Scott, Van Wert County.

When Silas S. Hunter was about four years old, his parents came to Van Wert County and settled on a farm in Liberty township, on which he remained until he was 18 years of age. In February, 1864, he enlisted for service in the Civil War, serving until he was honorably discharged in December, 1865. He was a member of Company H, 15th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and his commanding officers were Captain Updegrave and Col. Frank Askew. The regiment took part in the second fight at Resaca and was continually under fire, from Buzzard's Roost to Atlanta. It was attached to the division of Sherman's army which intercepted General Hood, and participated in the battle at Pickett's Mills, in which engagement the division lost 1,700 of its heroes in two hours. At the battle of Nashville the 15th Regiment was on the first line of the advance. Thence it proceeded to New Orleans, to Indianola and to San Antonio, Texas, where it was held on provost duty for five months. Then commenced the homeward march, through Indianola to New Orleans, and thence to Columbus, Ohio, where the regiment was mustered out. Mr. Hunter arrived home on December 29, 1865.

On February 4, 1864, just before leaving for the front, Mr. Hunter married Philura Welch, who was born in Van Wert

County, Ohio, and was a daughter of John Welch. At her death she left two sons—Jesse, of Scott, Ohio, and John K., of Toledo. In 1874 Mr. Hunter was again married, his wife being Mrs. Katherine Weaver, who was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, and was a daughter of John and Sarah Underwood. The children of this union were: Ida May, wife of Edward Allison, of Union township; Olive May, deceased, who was the wife of Bert Place; David, a resident of Union township; Harry Vinton, of Paulding County; and Benjamin Harrison and Walter Gaylord, both living at home. Mr. Hunter was married (third) in August, 1904, to the estimable lady who now presides over the household. She was formerly Mary Blanchard, was born in New Jersey and is a daughter of Manning and Susan (Cook) Blanchard. Mrs. Hunter is a highly accomplished, as well as a very capable lady. For 15 years prior to her marriage, she served as a trained nurse, being a graduate of the Women's Hospital, New York City. She has worked under physicians of both of the principal schools of medicine, in various places, where her professional efficiency has been very generally recognized.

After his return from the army, Mr. Hunter remained with his father on the farm for two years and then bought 15 acres of land in Liberty township, to which he removed. After clearing it, he sold it to advantage. He located on his present farm in 1873, for \$400 buying 80 acres of heavily wooded land, to which he has since added 40 acres. At the time of the original purchase no road had been cut through to reach it. The highway now passing it is known as the Hunter and Davidson road. Mr. Hunter has done all the clearing and made the many improvements, which have added beauty and value to the place. The handsome home alone could not have been constructed

for less than \$4,000, while all the other structures needed in the successful operation of a large, modern farm are of a substantial character. In addition to his main business of general farming, Mr. Hunter operated a clover threshing machine for some four years.

Mr. Hunter prepared for the ministry by personal effort and for 15 years traveled a circuit, his itinerancy covering Defiance, Williams and Hardin counties. Politically Mr. Hunter is a Republican and, while taking but a good citizen's interest in public matters, he has, on occasion, made campaign speeches. For a number of years he was a member of the School Board, and has served in other offices, notably as road supervisor.

RICHARD J. MORGAN, M. D., physician and surgeon at Van Wert, a specialist in diseases of the eye and ear, was born August 10, 1866, in Van Wert County, and is a son of William H. and Esther (Harris) Morgan.

The parents of Dr. Morgan, who were both born in South Wales, came to America in their youth, were married in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and soon after located in Ohio. The father engaged in coal mining in Jackson County until 1860, and then removed to Jennings township, Van Wert County, where he purchased a farm of 172 acres. Both parents died in 1881—the father in April, and the mother in September. Both were consistent members of the Welsh Presbyterian Church, and honored for their unostentatious goodness and piety. They had seven children, viz.: Henry, William, John, Hugh, Richard J., Lizzie and David H. The family possessed the Welsh gift of song, and four of them were members at one time of the well-known Venedocia Male Chorus, of Jennings township.

Richard J. Morgan's boyhood was passed on his father's farm, and he obtained an excellent education, through his own efforts passing through the normal schools at Ada, Ohio, and Angola, Indiana. In 1887 he entered Jefferson Medical College at Philadelphia, from which he was graduated in 1890, and entered into practice at Van Wert, in partnership with Dr. G. W. McGavren. From the first his success has been most gratifying, and he is numbered with the leading specialists in his line in this section of the State.

On September 26, 1893, Dr. Morgan was married at Van Wert, to Dode M. Lynch, a daughter of Abner and Margaret (Hammers) Lynch, of this city, and they have two sons—Richard J., Jr., and Chester A. Both he and his wife are connected with the Lutheran Church.

Fraternally, Dr. Morgan is a Mason and a Knight of Pythias, and politically, a Republican.

HARVEY EIKENBARY, one of the well-known business men of Van Wert, a member of The Ireton Brothers & Eikenbary Company, engaged in the grain and elevator business, is a native of the Buckeye State, born April 22, 1872. He is one of a family of 10 children, his parents being Henry and Sarah (Fireland) Eikenbary. As a boy, Harvey was given good educational advantages, which prepared him for a successful business career. In 1896 Mr. Eikenbary came to Van Wert and entered the grain and elevator business, in 1901 becoming a partner with the Ireton brothers, under the firm name of The Ireton Brothers & Eikenbary Company.

Mr. Eikenbary is not only associated with his partners in business but he is also a mem-

ber of the family, his wife being formerly Ella Ireton. They have a pleasant and comfortable home located at No. 502 East Main street, Van Wert. Mrs. Eikenbary is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

JAMES EDWARD SMITH, a highly respected citizen, and one of the most substantial farmers of Liberty township, the owner of a finely improved and highly cultivated farm of 120 acres in sections 20 and 29, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, November 28, 1845. His parents were Jacob and Mary Ann (Stickler) Smith.

Jacob Smith was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and was a son of Jacob Smith, Sr., a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Fairfield County, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits until the time of his death in 1855. Jacob Smith, the father of our subject, was reared and educated in his native county, and there married Mary Ann Strickler, a daughter of Jacob Strickler.

Jacob Strickler, who was a native of Germany, upon his arrival in this country first settled in Pennsylvania. Later he moved to Fairfield County, where he purchased a farm of 36 acres, adjoining the farm of Jacob Smith, Sr., and here gave his whole attention to farming until the time of his death in 1870.

Our subject, James E. Smith, was reared on the home farm which was situated on the line between Fairfield and Franklin counties. On October 10, 1867, he was married to Barbara Elizabeth Hart, a daughter of Bernhard and Anna Mary (Wooster) Hart. Mr. Hart was born in Pennsylvania, but while he was an infant his parents moved to Fairfield County and located on a farm. Here they died when he was still quite young.

To Mr. and Mrs. Smith were born five children, four of whom still live, namely: William and George Washington (twins), Etta May and Lewis Charles. William and Lewis Charles live at home. George Washington married Ida Moore and lives in Ohio City; they have seven children—Mabel May, Walter, Glenn, Gaylord, Elva, Samuel Floyd and Eva. Etta May married George S. Clouse and lives in Ohio City; they have four children: Charles Edward, Ella May, Edna Elizabeth and Michael Roy.

After his marriage, Mr. Smith continued to live on his father's farm until the spring of 1886, when he moved to his present location, which was then a farm of 80 acres, and which he bought two years later. In February, 1906, he purchased 40 acres of land directly across the road from his home. The pleasant home which the family occupies was erected before Mr. Smith took possession of the farm; but he has made many other substantial improvements on the place, which make it one of the best farms in the township. In 1905 he added to these improvements by building a fine large barn.

Mr. Smith is a man of public spirit and enterprise and has served in several minor township offices. He was for a number of years a school director of Violet township, Fairfield County, and served four years as township clerk. He is a member of the Lutheran Church.

HENRY HIPSHER, for many years one of the foremost agriculturists of York township, moved to his present farm in section 29, Ridge township, in the spring of 1904, and has been busily engaged in making it conform to his ideas of a desirable country residence. Mr. Hipsher was

born July 27, 1834, in Marion County, Ohio, and is a son of Asrom and Mary (Myers) Hipsher. Asrom Hipsher was born in Pennsylvania, both he and his wife being of German descent. He came to Van Wert County soon after the birth of our subject, and settled in Pleasant township where he resided until 1848. He then located in York township, where he died two years later, leaving four children, who are now living, viz.: Henry; Daniel, a resident of California; Eliza, wife of Peter Pixler, of Oklahoma; and James A., who resides in Michigan.

Henry Hipsher has been engaged in agricultural pursuits since his boyhood, and is one of the practical and successful farmers of the county. Soon after the Civil War he purchased 154 acres of land in section 4, York township, and improved it until it was one of the best farms in the county. He made this his home until within the past two years. The farm in section 29, Ridge township, contains 16 acres, and it is safe to say that with Mr. Hipsher's methods of improvement it will not be long before this property shows a decided increase in value.

Mr. Hipsher enlisted in August, 1862, in Company K, 46th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and saw much active service, being with General Sherman; with Grant at the siege of Vicksburg; Big Black River; Jackson; Mission Ridge; and many minor engagements. At Mission Ridge he received a severe wound in the left thigh, which cut short his career as a soldier. This necessitated his removal to the hospital, where he was confined for about 14 months, first at Columbus and later at Cleveland.

Mr. Hipsher has been twice married, his first wife having been Mary Pixler, a native of Wyandot County, Ohio, to whom he was married in 1854. Four children from this

union survive, viz.: Joseph E., Amanda A., wife of Richard T. Hughes; William J.; Rosina, wife of Edward Lamar—all of York township. On February 6, 1902, he was married to his present wife, Mary L. Keist, a native of Van Wert County. Her parents are John and Lydia A. (Gibson) Keist, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Ohio. The fruit of this union is one son, Clark H., who was born May 4, 1905. Mr. Hipsher is a Republican and a member of W. C. Scott Post, No. 100, G. A. R., at Van Wert. In religion he is a Methodist, being a member of the Beech Grove church.



WESLEY CHARLES HOLDEN, V. S., a skilled veterinarian of Delphos, was born in Harrison township, Dearborn County, Indiana, May 9, 1852, and is one of five sons and five daughters born to John Dennis and Melissa Ann (Odenboy) Holden. His grandfather, Hughey Holden, came from New Jersey about 1768, and settled in the then Western wilds which was destined to become the State of Indiana.

Wesley Charles Holden was educated near the Ohio line, his studies being carried on in Dearborn County, Indiana, and Hamilton County, Ohio. In 1879 he entered the College of Veterinary Surgeons in New York, from which he was graduated in 1881. It was not until he had tried a number of locations that he finally chose Boone County, Indiana, as his headquarters and opened an office there on November 8, 1882, having practiced for a very short time in Franklin County, Indiana, and Butler County, Ohio. He was associated with Dr. John Nicholas Naven for some time. After 12 years of successful prac-

tice in Boone County, Dr. Holden moved his office to Delphos, where the many calls for his services made him one of the busiest men of the county. Not only does he practice throughout Van Wert County, but also in Allen, Putnam and Auglaize. He has two barns and some of the finest horses ever brought to this section. Two of the animals are draft horses which were imported from England and Belgium, respectively, while a third, a young stallion named "Dr. Arp," is a trotter who gives promise of taking rank among the swiftest in the State.

Dr. Holden was married on June 30, 1898, to Goldie Turner, of Forest, Ohio, by whom he has an interesting family of five children, namely: Frank Bruce, born April 17, 1899; Ruth, born June 13, 1900; Vivian, born August 19, 1901; Lelia Ann, born August 17, 1903; and John D., born May 20, 1905.

The Doctor is an active member of the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Association and of the American Veterinary Medical Association of the United States and Canada.



JOHN L. CORATHERS. Among the prominent citizens of Pleasant township, identified with its public offices and agricultural development for a number of years, is John L. Corathers, whose well-cultivated farm of 286½ acres is situated in section 35. He was born September 25, 1855, in Seneca County, Ohio, and is a son of Phillip C. and Delilah (Huffman) Corathers.

The parents of Mr. Corathers came to Ohio from Pennsylvania, settling first in Seneca County, from which they moved, in 1877, to Van Wert County. They resided on a farm in the western part of Pleasant township for a number of years, but later moved to Van



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM H. AYERS AND FAMILY

Wert, where the father continued as a carpenter, builder and contractor, dying there in 1896. The mother of the family still survives and is a venerated resident of Van Wert. The children of Phillip C. Corathers and wife were: John L., Cynthia J (Mrs. S. J. Stump), Mary A. (Mrs. Harry Handwerk), Wilbur R., and Edgar B., all residents of Pleasant township; Mathias E., of Van Wert; and Nelson P., deceased.

John L. Corathers was reared an agriculturist, but enjoyed better educational advantages than were afforded many of his companions. After completing the public school course in his locality, he attended the State Normal School at Republic, Ohio, returning with fresh zest to farming, which had been his choice of occupation. In the fall of 1880 he engaged in farming in Pleasant township, where he has since lived.

On November 11, 1875, Mr. Corathers was married to Mary Schaaf, who was born in Seneca County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Jacob Schaaf. They have had four children, namely: Cora E., deceased; Harley W.; Rolla F.; and Lemuel C. These children have been given good educational opportunities, Mr. Corathers being a staunch friend of the public schools.

Politically he is a Republican, and has served in a number of the local offices with the greatest efficiency. For nine consecutive years he was a member of the School Board, was assessor for one year, and for seven years was one of the township trustees, during a part of this period serving as president of the board. It is mainly due to his energy and enterprise that this township has notably good roads. Mr. Corathers has always been of the opinion that much of the prosperity of a section is founded on well constructed roads and well conducted schools. He is a man of social in-

stincts and is connected with a number of the fraternal and social organizations of the country, among which are: Van Wert Lodge No. 251, Marion Encampment and Uniform Rank, I. O. O. F.; Beecher Council, No. 275, National Union; Alpha Lodge, No. 1, Home Guards of America; Fraternal Order of Eagles; and the Sons of Veterans—all of Van Wert. Religiously, he is a member of the Society of Friends.



WILLIAM HENRY AYERS, one of the successful and enterprising business men of Liberty township, owner and operator of a valuable farm of two hundred acres situated in sections 34 and 35, is a native of Van Wert County, where he was born on September 2, 1853. He is the son of Cyrus and Rachel (Butler) Ayers.

His father was born in Ashland County, Ohio, June 20, 1826, and was a son of James M. Ayers of Wayne County, Pennsylvania, who married Jane Richie, and subsequently moved to Ashland County, Ohio. He was married September 5, 1848, and moved to Van Wert County in 1850. On April 3, 1858 while felling timber, he was caught by a falling tree, which broke his spinal column and caused his death 17 days later. His wife Mrs. Rachel Ayers, was a daughter of John and Mary (Lindsay) Butler, of Tuscarawas County, Ohio, and died on July 2, 1905. They had six children, all of whom are living.

William H. Ayers, the subject of this sketch, was reared in Liberty township, received a good, common-school education, afterward devoting his time to agricultural pursuits, and in 1878 was married to Alvina Vangundy, daughter of Abraham Van-

gundy, a prominent farmer of Mercer County, Ohio. They have six children: Vernon, who married Nellie Smith and lives in Rockford, Mercer County; Emery Lee, who married Nellie King, of Van Wert, lives in Ohio City, and is the father of one child; Orley, who lives at home; Tony Gaylord, unmarried; Ethel Burdella Edna and Agnes Edith May.

About three years after his marriage, Mr. Ayers purchased 80 acres of land (the old home place) from the heirs of the estate, his father having originally entered 40 acres of land in section 35. He has added to this tract until now he is the owner of 200 acres of productive and valuable farm land. At one time he had 240 acres, but disposed of 40 acres in 1905. He also owns two residence properties in Ohio City, and has 13 producing oil wells on his land. In addition to the 13 wells on his own farm, which is leased to the Trial Oil Company, he has in operation 10 complete oil wells on other land which he has himself leased. He has two producing wells on the Straw lease, one on the Butler lease, and four on the Peter Temple lease. Mr. Ayers had on his farm the second oil well drilled in the Ohio City field, which for several months produced 200 barrels per day. It has been pumping since April 1, 1904 and is yet productive.

Mr. Ayers is recognized as one of the township's progressive and public-spirited men—one whose interests are coincident with those of the community. He is a Democrat and has always taken a lively interest in the success of the party, being elected trustee of the township by that party and serving thus for several years. He was for three years treasurer of the township and for two years township clerk, being at one time an unsuccessful candidate for county commissioner. For several years Mr. Ayers was one of the directors of the warehouse and

elevator at Van Wert, which is owned by the Grange of Liberty township. In all these various duties Mr. Ayers has ever striven to give the public his best and most conscientious efforts. On a preceding page in proximity to this, is shown a picture of Mr. and Mrs. Ayers and their family, executed from a recent photograph.



LONZO CONANT, deceased, formerly president of the First National Bank of Van Wert, was born March 17, 1817, at Turner, Maine, and was a son of Benjamin and Althea (Staples) Conant. In tracing the ancestry of Mr. Conant back to the founding of the family in America, the biographer calls to mind many historic spots and men and women are brought to light who were distinguished in their day and whose names are still honored in various annals.

Roger Conant, the emigrant and the probable ancestor of those on American soil who bear the name, was baptised at All Saints Church, East Budleigh, Devonshire, England, April 9, 1592, a son of Richard and Agnes (Clarke) Conant. In November, 1616, he was married in London and emigrated in 1623, probably sailing in the good ship "Ann," which arrived at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in July, 1623. The early accounts of the various religious differences of the time are too complicated to be fairly discussed in the limited space here allotted; for there were many men of many minds, all equally eminent in some respects and all equally honest in their views. Sufficient be it to say, after due study of the history of the early settlements in Massachusetts, that in the winter of 1624-25, Rev. John White selected the stern and inflexible Roger Conant to go to Cape Ann and take charge of the Puritan colony there established. This

colony was the first permanent settlement in the Massachusetts territory and was the nucleus of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The selection of Roger Conant, a man of influence and authority, proved admirable in every way, and soon, on his representations, a class of colonists, superior to the former, left England to make their homes in the New World. In 1625 he was made governor of Salem, Massachusetts (having built the first house in the place), and in 1628 was superseded by John Endicott.

Benjamin Conant, the grandfather of the late Alonzo Conant, was born August 29, 1756, at Bridgewater, Massachusetts, and in April, 1775, was one of Capt. Nathan Mitchell's company which, on the Lexington alarm, marched to Cambridge. In 1795 he removed to Turner, Maine.

His son Benjamin, father of Alonzo, was born September 24, 1794, before the family left Massachusetts. Benjamin Conant became a farmer in Androscoggin County, Maine, and in 1816 married Althea Staples, who was born in Massachusetts, July 8, 1793, and died in 1848, the mother of 10 children. The father of the family died in 1868.

Alonzo Conant was reared on the home farm, received the ordinary educational advantages of his day, and in 1839, with several companions, left his home to visit Ohio. He was well enough educated to be able to teach school and was strong enough to make his way by physical labor, while at the same time his mental gifts equipped him for business. For some five years after leaving home, all these accomplishments were called into requisition as necessity or choice demanded. In 1852 Mr. Conant came to Van Wert. Here, in partnership with Simon Swineford, he was engaged in a grocery business until 1868. At that time the manufacture of staves engaged the

attention of a number of the capitalists of Van Wert, and when a stock company was formed and the business organized, Mr. Conant was elected general manager, a position he filled for three years. In 1871 he came interested in the First National Bank as a director, and in 1878 was elected its president, an honorable position he filled with dignity and efficiency until the time of his decease, August 3, 1896.

On November 22, 1849, in Delaware County, Ohio, Mr. Conant was united in marriage with Esther A. Clark, who was born September 13, 1825, at Zanesville, Ohio, and they became the parents of four children, namely: Mary A. (deceased), Myrtle A., Ione E. (deceased), and Lida E.

In politics Mr. Conant was long prominently identified with the Republican party in Van Wert. At various times he filled offices of trust and responsibility, both in the municipality and county, and was in every way a representative citizen. He was one of the oldest members of the Odd Fellow fraternity in Van Wert, and until the close of his life took a deep interest in the work of the order. In religion Mr. Conant was a firm Universalist. His death brought to a close a useful, honorable and well-rounded life.




MYRON VALPAN LONGSWORTH, the well-known buggy and harness man of Delphos, was born June 6, 1849, in Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio, and is a son of Dr. William N. and Rebecca Ann (Doolin) Longworth. The family moved to Van Wert County about 1855, and in June, 1857, the mother died. Dr. Longworth began the practice of his profession in this county at a time when the work of a physician was hampered

by many trials and difficulties. After 20 years of service to his fellow-men, he retired from practice in 1875, and engaged in the drug business. Later he became a stockholder in a handle factory, and in 1890 moved to Convo, where he passed to his reward on May 12, 1903.

Myron V. Longworth was reared and educated principally in Van Wert County, although three years were spent with an uncle in Noble County. He learned the trade of harnessmaker with one Strandler, finishing in the shop of Frank Shoop. He then located in Delphos, where he first secured work with J. D. Lloyd, with whom he entered into partnership in 1875. Upon the death of that gentleman, Mr. Longworth succeeded to the business, and in 1885 moved to his present quarters. He handles buggies, saddles, harness—in fact almost every article of equipment that is used in connection with a horse. The magnitude of his business and the confidence reposed in him speak more eloquently of his integrity and worth than any words that might be written.

Mr. Longworth was married in 1870 to Mary Mauk, daughter of Michael Mauk, who resides near LaFayette in Allen County. They are the parents of six children, as follows: William Alden; Harry M.; Emery, who died in infancy; Otis; Mabel, who died at the age of 19 years; and Effie. Mr. Longworth is a Mason and a member of the Royal Arcanum.

ENJAMIN F. HOFFMAN, mayor of Ohio City, vice-president of the Farmers' Bank, and identified with numerous business enterprises here, was born in Liberty township, Van Wert County, Ohio, in 1863, and is a son of the late

Christopher Hoffman, who settled in Van Wert County in the '50's. Mr. Hoffman was reared on his father's farm, where he remained until he was 20 years of age, after which he held clerical positions in a drug store and a grocery store. In 1892, in association with his brother, he established the firm of Hoffman Brothers, which was continued until 1903, since which year Mr. Hoffman has been giving his attention to his various investments and to the duties of his public offices.

Politically Mr. Hoffman is a Democrat. He has served three terms as township clerk, three terms as a member of the City Council, and in the November election of 1905 was chosen mayor of Ohio City by a majority of 35 over G. C. Marston, although the Republican majority in the other offices was 60 votes.

In 1888 Mr. Hoffman was married to Myrtle Spence, who died 18 months later, leaving one daughter—Myrtle. In February, 1891, he married, as his second wife, Margaret Kiser, who is a daughter of Jacob Kiser, a farmer of Liberty township. They have five children, viz.: Ray, Thelma, Georgia, Lucile and Vera. Mr. Hoffman is connected with the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and is a member of the church council. Fraternally he is an Odd Fellow and a Knight of Pythias.

The Farmers' Bank of Ohio City, Ohio, was organized in 1899, with the following officers: S. G. Sheller, of Dayton, president; M. M. Agler, cashier; and Benjamin F. Hoffman, vice-president. The other members of the company comprise these substantial citizens: O. G. Hackedon, manufacturer; J. A. Swoveland, druggist; C. A. Leasenhoff, grocer; W. H. High, farmer and stock-raiser; and Frank Caster, Samuel Hertel, and L. Disher, farmers. Although the bank has been in existence but a few years, it has secured

the public confidence and occupies an enviable position among the financial institutions of this locality. Much of its prosperity is directly due to the high standing of the officials and the careful, conservative course they pursue.

REYNOLDS KNOX LYTLE was born in Stark County, Ohio, February 17, 1819, and died at Delphos, November 9, 1890. His parents were Robert and Hannah (Knox) Lytle, natives of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and on the maternal side the line was the same which produced James Knox Polk, the 11th President of the United States.

Mr. Lytle came of a family of substance, and being the youngest of the eight children was afforded more than the ordinary educational advantages. His father died in 1821. His mother removed with him to Sidney, Ohio, in 1833, where he prepared for college, and in 1839 he entered the freshman class of the Miami University, at Oxford. He remained a student there until he completed his junior year, and then entered upon the study of medicine with Dr. G. Volney Dorsey, of Piqua, Ohio. It seems that this profession, at close range, lost its attractions, for he soon gave up medical study and engaged in teaching school. His mother died in 1842, and in 1845 he came to Van Wert County and very soon took charge of the general store of Hollister, Bliss & Pettit, at Delphos. Within two and a half years he became a member of the firm, the name of which became Hollister, Bliss & Lytle. This partnership continued until 1856. Mr. Lytle had proved his adaptability for a mercantile career, and in that year he formed a business

partnership in the dry goods and clothing line, under the name of Lytle & Roebuck, which continued until 1859.

In 1864 Mr. Lytle returned to Sidney, where he lived retired for some years, recuperating from a state of impaired health. In 1871 or 1872 he returned to Delphos, and in 1874, upon the organization of the Commercial Banking Company, he was called from his retirement to become its president, an honorable and responsible position he continued to fill until his death. He was interested in other successful business enterprises, and was on the directing boards of the Ohio Wheel Works and the Union State Works. He was considered a man of great business capacity and among his associates was looked upon with respect and consideration.

In his political views he was a Republican and on one occasion was selected by his party as a candidate for Congress. Although he was not elected on account of the district being notably a Democratic one, his personal popularity was shown by the vote he polled, it being the largest ever received by a Republican in this district.

Mr. Lytle was married first to Martha L. Major, a daughter of Samuel Major. Six children were born to them, all of whom died young. The death of the mother occurred in 1864. In 1866 Mr. Lytle was married (second) to Mary Sprague, of Wooster, Ohio, and they had two children: Lindol S., who was accidentally killed in 1902; and Margaret K., who is the whole survivor of the family. Her mother died in March, 1875. On May 10, 1876, Mr. Lytle was married to Isabella R. Harn, of St. Marys, Ohio.

Fraternally Mr. Lytle was a Royal Arch Mason and a member of the Royal Arcanum. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church

at Delphos and one of its trustees. His remains were interred in the West Side Cemetery, at Delphos.

The late Lindol S. Lytle, only brother of Margaret K. Lytle, married Fannie Hume. She survives with two children—Leila S. and Fern B.



CLARK GOOD, a well-known member of the Bar of Van Wert, recently elected to the office of city attorney, was born in Van Wert County, January 10, 1877, and is one of a family of two born to his parents, Abraham B. and Rachel (McLaughlin) Good.

Mr. Good was reared on his father's farm in Van Wert County. His education, which was commenced in the common schools, was completed at the Ohio Northern University, where he was graduated in 1903. On June 11, of that year, Mr. Good was admitted to the bar, and opened an office at Van Wert, where he has continued in the practice of his profession ever since, meeting with gratifying success.

December 25, 1903, Mr. Good married Millie Reed, who is a daughter of William I. Reed, one of the county commissioners of Van Wert County, of whom extended mention will be found in another part of this work. The pleasant family residence is at No. 514 North Cherry street, Van Wert. Mr. Good occupies well-appointed offices at No. 116½ East Main street. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mr. Good's political affiliations have always been with the Republican party. In 1905 he was nominated by his friends for the office of city attorney, and at the election held in November was successful, receiving a plural-

ity of 227 votes over his Democratic opponent, Levi N. Jacobs. He is a valued member of the Van Wert County Bar Association.



M. AGLER, cashier of the Farmers' Bank of Ohio City, was born in Willshire township, Van Wert County, Ohio, in 1870, and is a son of Timothy Agler, formerly a soldier in the Civil War and now a prominent farmer of Willshire. Mr. Agler was liberally educated, attending the Western Ohio Normal School at Middlepoint, and then for 13 years teaching school in Van Wert County, in all this period having only three schools. He has always been an intelligent, public-spirited citizen, deeply interested in public affairs, and from 1897-98 represented Van Wert County in the State Legislature. For some years he held other offices, including that of township assessor. Since the organization of the Farmers' Bank, he has served as cashier and has other large interests of a business nature.

On October 5, 1903, Mr. Agler was married to Miss L. A. Johnson, daughter of the late Joel Johnson of Willshire township. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias, at Ohio City, and the Red Men, at Van Wert.



REV. AMOS O. RABER, until recently pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Delphos, and one of the esteemed citizens of the city, was born at Wolcottville, Noble County, Indiana, and is a son of Daniel and Mary Ann (Dice) Raber.

The father of our subject died when he was

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REV. HARVEY BERGMAN



REV. ALMIRA P. BERGMAN

six years of age, leaving a family of five children, of whom Amos O. was the youngest, the others being: Joel D.; Andrew J., Salome, who married Carl Risch; and one deceased.

Without a father, the youth had a much harder path to travel than would have been his if he had had some careful, strong and interested fatherly help on which to depend. He was a brave little fellow, however, and determined to make his own way without incurring expense for his mother. He went to school at a place known as Dutch street, in Noble County, and paid for his clothes and board by working on neighboring farms. He early developed an ambition to enter the ministry, and with this for an incentive he worked hard and saved his money. He was thus able to attend the Waterloo Normal School in De Kalb county and the Wolcottville Seminary. By 1891 he was able to realize his cherished hopes and was admitted as a minister of the Presbyterian Church. His first charge was at Mount Carmel, Indiana, where he remained almost four years. From there he accepted a call, in December, 1894, to the Wayne Avenue Presbyterian Church, at Dayton, Ohio, where he remained until January, 1899, when he came to Delphos. Mr. Raber had here a large and intelligent congregation of about 350 members. He found the church heavily in debt, but, by excellent management he greatly reduced the indebtedness, and also made many advances in the spiritual state, while adding to the material welfare of his charge.

On September 9, 1880, Mr. Raber was married to Mary A. Wise, of Stryker, Ohio, who is a daughter of George and Caroline (Strawman) Wise. Mr. Raber was a faithful pastor to his flock, and he and his estimable wife won the regard and affection of the members of the congregation, as well as of those

who became acquainted with them in the social life of the community. He impressed all with his fidelity to the cause to which he has devoted his life and talents, and, while not being active in any factional contests, he was always ready to forward all the movements for the betterment of the moral standards of the community. Rev. Amos O. Raber closed his ministry in Delphos March 18, 1906, having accepted a unanimous call to the First Presbyterian Church at Derry, Pennsylvania.

REV. HARVEY BERGMAN, an ordained minister in the Society of Friends, is one of the most highly esteemed citizens of Washington township, where he resides on his thoroughly improved farm of 160 acres, situated in section 20. He was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, November 26, 1830, and is a son of George and Mary (Seeger) Bergman.

The Bergman ancestry reaches, through many generations, to Scotland, from which land our subject's ancestors were driven by religious persecution. In the 17th century two members of this old Scotch family migrated to Germany, and, in the course of time, their children came to America and located in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia. George Bergman, the father of Rev. Harvey Bergman, was born in Maryland. Soon after his birth his parents moved to Virginia and thence to Licking County, Ohio. After George Bergman's marriage in Licking County, he moved to Fairfield County, Ohio, and subsequently to Jay County, Indiana, where he became a man of wealth and prominence. He reared a large family, 12 of his 14 children reaching maturity, and he was able to establish his sons on farms of 160 acres each and provide his daughters with 80 acres

each, his estate at death, even then, amounting to some 500 acres. This large property had been acquired through industry and frugality, his trade as a cooper being profitable in his day, although much of his fortune was made in judiciously investing his earnings in land.

Rev. Harvey Bergman's educational advantages were only those of the common school, but a native intelligence advanced him beyond the majority of his companions, and he was teaching school when the large number of them knew nothing but to follow the plow. Reared in the faith of the Society of Friends, and thoroughly accepting the peaceful principles which are the foundation of their faith, the opening of the Civil War brought to him a problem difficult to solve. He was a strong supporter of the government, but to support it by force of arms was to be at variance with the tenets of his religious body. However, as the war was prolonged and as personal sentiments, however laudable, were not recognized by the authorities in whose hands was the suppression of rebellion, and drafts pressed all men into the service, Mr. Bergman enlisted, in 1864, and made a conscientious and faithful soldier.

At the close of the war, Mr. Bergman returned to his home in Jay County, Indiana, from which county he had enlisted and where his family still resided. Prior to his enlistment he had married Ann Axe, who died in 1868, the mother of seven children, namely: Mary, wife of William Rowe, who resides at Indianapolis; Sarah Ann, wife of Henry Kreusch, a merchant of Bryan, Williams County, Ohio; Perry, in business in California; Clarinda, formerly wife of Ivens Smith, who died at Coldwater, Ohio; Samantha Ellen, wife of Frederick Huntwork, a farmer of Portland, Indiana; and George and Hannah (twins)—the former of whom, now deceased, was the Republican nominee for judge at Portland, and the

latter the wife of Rev. Charles Hiatt, pastor of the Friends' Church at Muncie, Indiana.

Mr. Bergman was married (second), at Winchester, Indiana, to Mrs. Almira (Pierce) Smith, widow of George Smith, and a daughter of Rev. Asa Heath Pierce. The latter was born at Mount Washington, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, July 30, 1809, and died in 1902, at which time he was the oldest recorded Free Will Baptist minister in the United States. Mrs. Bergman was born in Knox County, Ohio November 4, 1838, and is a thoroughly educated lady, having received her mental training at Mount Hesper Friends' Seminary, in Morrow County, Ohio. For four years previous to her marriage to our subject she had been an acceptable minister in the Society of Friends.

After their marriage in November, 1877, Mr. Bergman and wife came to Van Wert County. A religious concern had brought them and a great awakening followed their efforts, which resulted in the conversion of 500 persons, 300 of whom united with the Society of Friends. In March, 1878, with the co-operation of some substantial citizens of Ridge and Washington townships, they engaged in the erection of the present commodious church edifice at Middlepoint, at the same time holding meetings in the Presbyterian and the Methodist Episcopal churches and in a school hall. On November 1, 1878, was dedicated their own church in which they have been ministers and evangelists ever since.

Mr. Bergman cleared his present fine farm and erected the substantial buildings thereon and, with his wife, owns 40 acres of land west of Portland, Indiana, as well as an attractive summer home at Bay View, Michigan. During his residence in Jay County, Indiana, he served for six years as county commissioner, but has taken no active interest in public matters since coming to Ohio. Both he and his

wife stand very high in the community, exercising as they do, a gentle, refining influence, and exemplifying in their beautiful lives the value of the simple faith they profess and teach. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Bergman accompany this sketch.

NEWTON PUTMAN, whose valuable farm of 99 acres is situated in section 30, Liberty township, was born here March 30, 1857, and is a son of Peter and Sarah Elizabeth (Niferd) Putman.

Peter Putman was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and was the son of Peter Putman, who was of German descent. In Somerset County the father of our subject was married to his first wife, Mary Ann Adams, and seven children were born to this union. Subsequently Peter Putman moved to Stark County, Ohio, where his wife died. In the meantime he had entered 160 acres of land in Liberty township, Van Wert County, and had returned to Stark County to make preparations for removal to the new home in the following spring. Removal was made by Mr. Putman, with his seven children, and settlement was made in Liberty township in the spring of 1841. Later he married Sarah Elizabeth Neiferd, in Van Wert County, and 11 children were born to this second union, making in all eighteen children of whom he was father. He resided in Liberty township for the rest of his life, dying here in 1887, aged 84 years. His venerable widow still survives, at the age of 79 years.

J. Newton Putman was reared and educated in school district No. 1, Liberty township, and has always been a farmer. In 1879 he was married to Emma Frances Fortney, who was a daughter of Daniel Fortney, who

was a very early settler in Liberty township and entered the farm on which Mr. Putman resides. Mr. Fortney died in 1899 and his wife in 1901.

Mr. and Mrs. Putman have had five children, the survivors being: Fremont, who married Lucy Krisher; Grace, who married Frederick Lindemoot and has two children—Clara and Zelma; Ira; and Sherman Earl. Lucy Lee, a twin of Grace, died aged five months. Mr. Putman is a member of the Odd Fellows. His land is more than usually valuable on account of oil having been developed here, of which at present there are 10 producing wells.

J. WINNEY, postmaster at Ohio City, ex-mayor and ex-city clerk, has been a dominating factor in politics here for a number of years. He was born in 1862 in Michigan, where he was reared and received a good common-school education.

Mr. Winney began the business of life in the school room, where he engaged in teaching for some three years and then for a time was interested in a grocery business. Later he accepted a position on the "Clover Leaf" Railroad, as foreman of a railroad construction gang, which he filled for eight months. In 1888 he located in Ohio City, where for 14 years he managed the Wells-Fargo Express business. In the meantime he had taken much interest in city and township politics, and was successively chosen township clerk, city clerk and mayor. He has also been a member of the Republican County Central Committee, and is serving as postmaster under a second administration, having been first appointed by the late President McKinley.

In 1891 S. J. Winney was married to Winnie L. Upton, a native of Ohio, and they have three children—Glenn E., Claud E. and Rea

Ethel. Fraternally Mr. Winnie is a member of the lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Ohio City.

FRANK STIPPICH, a prosperous young agriculturist of Washington township, residing on his mother's fine farm of 90 acres, which is situated in section 33, was born January 12, 1876, on this farm, and is the youngest child of August and Mary (Schorr) Stippich.

August Stippich was born in Baden, Germany, and when only six years old came to America with his father, Michael Stippich, who first located near New Riegel, Seneca County, Ohio. Here August was reared, educated and married, the latter event taking place in 1856. He was united with Mary Schorr, a daughter of Michael and Catharine (Mumber) Schorr, who were also natives of Germany, but who came to this country during their early married life and settled in Seneca County, Ohio. Here Mrs. Stippich was born April 3, 1836. After their marriage, August Stippich and his wife moved to Van Wert County. They purchased 240 acres of land and built a log cabin. At that time the land was covered with a forest growth. This was cleared, substantial buildings were erected and many other improvements were made. The log cabin was later replaced by the house which is now occupied by the family. Mr. and Mrs. Stippich had the following children: Nicholas, the eldest, who died at the age of 20; Joseph, who died at the age of 19; Kate; Michael, who lives at Delphos and is proprietor of the Inter-Urban Restaurant; Mary, who married Thomas Gengler, of Clover Dale, Ohio; Agnes, who married John Metzger, of Delphos; Andrew, who married Julia Hugel and lives in Jennings township; Lena, now deceased, who was wife

of Louis Hugel; and Frank, subject of this sketch. Kate married Nick Goshe, of Seneca County. They lived for a time at Delphos, where she died, leaving five children, namely: Clara, who married Charles Hennig, lives in Kansas and has one child—Loretta; Rosa, deceased; Joseph, who is in the United States Army, being stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Edward, also is in the United States Army, at Fort Leavenworth; and Fred, who lives with his grandmother on the old homestead. August Stippich died August 26, 1877, and was buried in the Catholic Cemetery at Landeck. His wife is still living on the home place with her son Frank.

Frank Stippich, the subject of this sketch, has always had his home in Washington township, where he was reared and educated, and has always been engaged in farming the home place. The farm originally consisted of 240 acres, but has been divided among the children until it is reduced to 90 acres. Religiously the family are all members of the Catholic Church at Landeck, Ohio.

ELDER WILLIS PUTMAN, whose well-improved and valuable farm of 181½ acres of land is situated in Liberty township, resides on that portion of it which is located in section 29. He was born on this farm on May 6, 1864, and is a son of Peter and Sarah Elizabeth (Neiferd) Putman.

The father of Mr. Putman was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, where he was reared and educated. Later he came to Ohio and settled in Stark County where he remained until 1843. He then located in Van Wert County, on the present homestead farm. He was married twice and was the father of 18



JACOB S. ZOOK

children. Many of these are settled in Liberty and adjoining townships.

Elder Willis Putman was reared in Liberty township and was educated in the public schools. In 1890 he was united in marriage with Lena Gaier, who is a daughter of Martin Gaier, of Willshire township. They have had these children: Walter, Clarence, Glen, Gaylord (deceased at the age of three years), Archie, Esther and Leland.

Mr. Putman's farm is a very valuable one on account of oil having been found here. At present he has four producing wells. In 1893 he erected his handsome and commodious frame farm residence. He is looked upon as one of the substantial men of his township. Mr. Putman is extensively known throughout this section, as he has operated a steam thrasher for the past 18 years in Van Wert and Mercer counties.

JACOB S. ZOOK, a prominent and heavy contractor and builder of Van Wert, whose portrait accompanies this sketch, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, April 5, 1838, being a son of Daniel and Nancy (Steel) Zook.

Daniel Zook, who was a native of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, removed with his parents to Wayne County, Ohio, when 18 years old. Nancy Steel was also born in Pennsylvania, and was a mere child when brought to Ohio, her parents being among the first families to locate in Wayne County. Daniel and Nancy reached maturity near Wooster, Wayne County, and were married in 1834. The husband then engaged in farming in that county, remaining there until 1841, when he moved to Crawford County and in 1851 to Wyandot County, where he entered 40 acres of land and cleared up the farm on which he died in 1854.

To Daniel and Nancy Zook were born six children in the following order: Mary, Jacob S., Amanda E., John W., William N. and Dennis C. In 1888 Mrs. Nancy Zook died.

Jacob S. Zook was about 13 years of age when his parents moved to Wyandot County, where he resided until 1856, when at the age of 18 he went to Oceola, Crawford County, where he served an apprenticeship of three years at the carpenter's trade with John Dome. For the succeeding four years he worked in partnership with Mr. Dome and then went to Nevada, Ohio, where he commenced contracting on his own account, and thus continued until 1873. In that year he came to Van Wert as this city afforded a wider scope for the exercise of his skill and ability.

When first coming to Van Wert, Mr. Zook formed a partnership with E. W. Wilson, which continued for four years, at the expiration of which time he established an independent business. In this city he has since erected the Hotel Marsh, the First Methodist Episcopal Church, the City Hall, the Second Ward schoolhouse, the machine shop and roundhouse of the Cincinnati Northern Railroad, the Brumback library, the Auditorium, the Home Guards Temple and various other prominent buildings. He owns a fine residence on South Washington street and 400 acres of well-improved land in Van Wert and Paulding counties. He is also a stockholder in the First National Bank and a member of its board of directors.

Mr. Zook's first marriage took place in Oceola, Crawford County, Ohio, January 21, 1862, to Amanda E. Barrick, who was born in the county named, July 20, 1839, and was a daughter of John and Jane Barrick. Both he and his wife were members of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, of Van Wert, until Mrs. Zook's death, which occurred in 1902. They had no children. Mr. Zook was afterward

married to Mrs. Rosa F. DeMoss Gamble. In politics Mr. Zook is a Republican and as such has served in Van Wert's City Council for two years. Fraternally he is a Mason, ranking as a Knight Templar. As a business man he is broad and progressive, and his social standing is among the best citizens of Van Wert.

PETER KNITTLE, a former commissioner of Van Wert County, and one of the foremost agriculturists, has been a resident of section 14, Ridge township, practically all his life. His farm, which he purchased in 1875, consists of 260 acres of land and is among the best in this part of the State. Mr. Knittle was born April 8, 1850, and is a son of George and Margaret (Walter) Knittle. Both parents were of German descent, the father being a native of Pennsylvania and the mother of Hocking County, Ohio. Locating in Allen County, George Knittle entered 160 acres of land from the government and remained upon it until 1853, when he removed with his family to Van Wert County and settled in section 14, Ridge township. He was a prominent man in this township and county, and one who was highly esteemed. He was a devout member of the Lutheran Church at Middlepoint. In politics he was a Democrat. He died May 10, 1894, at a good old age, having attained to within a few months of 91 years. Three children survive him, viz.: Samuel, a farmer of Ridge township; Caroline, wife of Jacob Burgner, of Pleasant township; and Peter.

After leaving school, Peter Knittle gave his entire time to agriculture and in 1875 purchased 260 acres of heavy timberland, upon which he built a home and which he began to

improve. Cutting off the greater part of the timber, he converted it into clean tillable land, and began the work of cultivation. This all took years of hard and persistent work; but Mr. Knittle may feel well repaid for his trouble. June 24, 1875, he was married to Lucy A. Steward, a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, and a daughter of Thomas and Angeline (Nye) Steward. They came to Van Wert County in 1872, and lived in Ridge township, where the father died in February, 1904. Since then the mother has made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Joseph Taylor, of Ridge township. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Knittle are: Nettie M., Joseph E., Laura E., Orah E. and Noah A. Mr. Knittle has been a prominent Democrat for years and was an efficient and faithful commissioner of Van Wert County for two terms, two years of which time he was president of the board. He is a member of Abanaki Tent, Improved Order of Red Men, at Van Wert.

GOTTLIEB MOHR, a representative pioneer and well-known citizen of Hoaglin township, has resided on his present farm in section 18 since 1863. Mr. Mohr was born in Baden, Germany, September 10, 1836, and is a son of Frederick G. and Catherine (Kuhn) Mohr.

The parents of our subject were also natives of Baden, Germany. In 1849 they emigrated with their children to Richland County, Ohio, and in 1850 they came to Van Wert County and settled in Hoaglin township. Frederick G. Mohr entered 160 acres of land from the government, situated in sections 18 and 19, and settled in a rude log cabin in the wilderness. Here, with all the hardships attendant


upon pioneering, he succeeded in developing the fine farm on which he lived until his death in June, 1871. The two surviving children are: Gottlieb, our subject, and Jacob, a resident of Van Wert County. Those deceased are Charles, Frederick, Christian and Catherine, who lived to old age and had families.

Gottlieb Mohr spent his youth on his father's farm in Hoaglin township, and attended school in a little log school house for a time; but in his day children were not afforded present day educational advantages. He grew into a good, reliable farmer, able practically to assume the duties of such when still a young man. In 1863, when he purchased his present 80-acre farm, he was able to operate it successfully, and has continued here ever since, now being somewhat retired from activity. He carried on a general line of farming and stock-raising for many years, and through natural increase and his excellent methods attained independence long ago. He now owns 495 acres of choice, well-improved land.

On April 1, 1861, Mr. Mohr was married to Sarah A. Snearly, who was born in Portage County, Ohio, February 13, 1842, and is a daughter of George F. and Mary (Voltz) Snearly. This was also a German family which came to Ohio at an early day and settled as pioneers in Portage County. When Mrs. Mohr was about seven years old, her people moved to Allen County, Indiana, where she was reared and married. A family of 11 children was born to this union. The survivors are: Edward G., of Union township; Susie M., wife of William M. Hoaglin, of Cavett; Cassie S., wife of George A. Foust, of Hoaglin township; Lydia E., wife of James W. Rumble, of Hoaglin township; Alta J., wife of Willur Moon, of Paulding County, Ohio; Hattie, wife of James Cavanaugh, of Cavett; and Walter, of Hoaglin township. The de-

ceased members of the family are: David F., John, Solomon and Benjamin F. All died in infancy, except David F., who died aged 37 years. He left to his wife and seven children a 160-acre tract of land in Paulding County, with a clear title.

Mr. Mohr has always given his support to the Republican party. He has frequently been invited to hold office, and for three terms was the efficient treasurer of Hoaglin township. Both he and his estimable wife are members of the Evangelical Association. They are well known all through the township and are respected and esteemed. Their long lives have been filled with kind deeds, and their example of domestic happiness, thrift and industry has not been lost on their community. They are truly representative citizens and no history of this township would be complete without an extended mention of them.

 DAVID J. DAVIS, deceased, formerly county commissioner of Van Wert County, Ohio, and for more than 20 years an active business man at Delphos, was born July 7, 1841, in Jackson County, Ohio, and was a son of Jenkin and Anna (Edwards) Davies. He died at Delphos on February 21, 1888, and was laid to rest in the West Side Cemetery.

Mr. Davies was reared and educated in Jackson County, enlisting in the Union cause before his education was completed, and serving both in the ranks and as a hospital steward. Upon his return from the Civil War he entered Lebanon University and after graduating therefrom (on October 21, 1867), locating at Delphos, where he entered into partnership with the late Henry J. Moennig. Mr. Davies was also interested in the insurance business, and, being

a man of business capacity and promptitude, commanded the general respect of his fellow-citizens. He served two terms as commissioner of Van Wert County, performing his public duties with the same faithful ability which he applied to his private business.

On October 8, 1867, Mr. Davies was married to Nancy Ellen Richey, who was born April 1, 1840, and is a daughter of Charles P. and Martha T. (Maddox) Richey. Mr. Richey was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, and settled in Van Wert County, in October, 1844, when his daughter was four years old. He still resides in Van Wert, having been a justice of the peace for 28 years. His wife died in 1866.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Davies are: Charles Walter, born April 19, 1869, who married Stella Waugh, lives in Chicago, has one child—Verna—and occupies a very responsible position with the Illinois Steel Works, of that city; Jenkins Virgil, born October 1, 1871, who married Anna Patterson and resides in Alabama; Homer Moening, born September 22, 1873, who is cashier of the Commercial Bank of Delphos; Ethel Armada, born January 20, 1876, a teacher in the Delphos public schools; and Villa Verona, born November 26, 1879, who resides at home, of Van Wert County. The father died February 19, 1898, in Union township.



GEORGE A. MOHR, one of Hoaglin township's best known citizens and prominent farmers, resides on his well-improved estate, which contains 120 acres and is situated in section 3, Hoaglin township. Mr. Mohr was born in this township, September 4, 1860, and is a son of Christian and Mary A. (Liest) Mohr.

The parents of Mr. Mohr were born in

Germany, and were early settlers in this section of Van Wert County. The father died February 2, 1902, after a long, useful and exemplary life. He was a member of the Grand Victory Evangelical Church of Hoaglin township. His surviving children are: Mary A., wife of Thomas K. Rowley, of Hoaglin township; George A., of Hoaglin township; William J., of Union township; Samuel C., of Hoaglin township; Benjamin C., of Van Wert; Elizabeth, wife of Wesley Reid, of Paulding County, Ohio; Amelia, wife of William Sealscott, of Hoaglin township; Savilla, wife of Elmer Stripe, of Hoaglin township; and Susan, wife of William Inwood, of Hoagland township.

George A. Mohr was reared in Hoaglin township and was educated in the public schools. His life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits. Since 1888 he has operated his present farm, and with such success that it is justly considered one of the most valuable in the township. He is a public-spirited and enterprising citizen, always ready to lend his influence to forward movements for the public welfare.

On October 28, 1888, Mr. Mohr was united in marriage with Sarah N. Bennett, who was born in Hocking County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Erastus H. and Mary E. (Poling) Bennett, the former of whom was born in Morgan County, Ohio, and the latter in Virginia. Mrs. Mohr was about 13 years old when her parents removed to Van Wert County. They resided for several years in Scott, Union township, Van Wert County, but now live in Paulding County.

Mr. and Mrs. Mohr have four children, viz.: William L., born August 12, 1889; Remus Irvin, born February 4, 1892; Ira G., born November 27, 1893; and Otto L., born November 17, 1898.

Politically Mr. Mohr is identified with the Republican party. He has served three years as assessor of Hoaglin township. He is a member of Pequod Tribe No. 102, Improved Order of Red Men, at Scott, and of the lodge of Odd Fellows at Grover Hill. Formerly Mr. Mohr was president of District No. 4 Grover Hill Home Telephone Company.

JOHN B. BROWN, one of Van Wert County's well-known and respected citizens, and a prominent farmer of Pleasant township, residing in section 31 on his well-improved farm of 80 acres, was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, December 7, 1849, and is a son of William and Mary (Baum) Brown.

The father of Mr. Brown was born in Pennsylvania and his mother in Maryland. In 1835 they moved to Montgomery County, Ohio, as very early pioneers, where they became substantial farming people. The survivors of their family are: John B., of this sketch; Martin, a resident of Van Wert, Catherine, widow of Ephraim Summers, of Montgomery County; and Annie, wife of Amos Dilts, of Pleasant township.

John B. Brown was reared on his father's farm, attended the district schools and was trained to be a practical farmer. He has been a resident of Pleasant township since 1883, and has lived on his present farm since 1903. It is considered one of the very valuable farms of the township and it is very well managed by its owner.

Mr. Brown was married June 1, 1881, to Etta Eckfeld, who was born in Harrison township, Van Wert County, Ohio, January 22, 1861, and is a daughter of John N. and Catherine (Gehres) Eckfeld, both natives of Ger-

many and early settlers in Harrison township. For many years the Eckfelds lived in Van Wert, where the father died June 5, 1888, and the mother, April 12, 1903. The children who survive John M. Eckfeld and wife are: Elizabeth, wife of Martin Brown, of Van Wert; Etta, wife of our subject; Esther, wife of M. H. Standish, of Van Wert; and John E., who resides in Van Wert.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown have had these children: Catherine M., William J., Elizabeth, Leah and Carl, the latter deceased.

Politically, Mr. Brown has always been affiliated with the Democratic party. In 1897 he was his party's candidate for the office of sheriff, but was defeated by a man who was also very popular, Sheriff John M. Webster, who had but 130 more votes.

Mr. Brown is a great advocate of good roads and he has been agitating this question for a long time. It was mainly through his earnest efforts that the first turnpike road was built in Van Wert County, which runs through Pleasant township, and which was named the Brown turnpike in his honor. He has proved himself one of the township's valuable and public-spirited citizens.

Fraternally, Mr. Brown is a member of Brookville Lodge, I. O. O. F., of Brookville, Ohio.

DAVID L. McDONALD, one of the leading business men of Van Wert, now engaged in handling automobiles, is one of a family of five children born to his parents, Dr. David L. and Margaret (Robertson) McDonald, who resided near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The father of Mr. McDonald, now deceased, was one of the leading physicians and surgeons of Franklin Coun-

ty, Pennsylvania, where the family is well and favorably known.

David L. McDonald was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, November 26, 1872. In February, 1897, he became a resident of Van Wert, embarking in a drug business which he successfully conducted for some years. He then disposed of the business in order to enter into the automobile line, in which he has met with encouraging success. Politically Mr. McDonald is a stanch Democrat and for years has been looked upon as a party leader. He has held numerous positions of prominence in the party and in the fall of 1905 was the Democratic nominee for mayor.

Mr. McDonald was married to Anna K. Rupright, a native of Van Wert, and they have two children—John R. and David L., Jr. Mr. and Mrs. McDonald have a very pleasant home on the corner of Cherry street and Central avenue, Van Wert, and are members of the German Lutheran Church.



CHRISTOPHER C. GEPHART, who owns and resides on a farm of 76 acres, situated in section 22, Liberty township, is one of the substantial farmers of the locality. He was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, June 27, 1850, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Vinegar) Gephart.

Henry Gephart was a native of Germany, where he was reared, educated and married. He came to America in 1846 with his wife and one child, Peter, and located first in Tuscarawas County, where he worked on a farm, earning 25 cents per day. By economy and good management he saved enough from his meagre wages to purchase a farm in Adams County, where he lived for some time, and later bought

18 acres more. He subsequently moved to Van Wert County and bought 80 acres of farm land, retaining at the same time the farm in Adams County. At this time he also owned two houses and lots in Decatur, Indiana. He passed the remainder of his life in Van Wert County, engaged in agricultural pursuits, dying here in 1889. His wife died in July, 1893. They were the parents of nine children, Christopher being the third in order of birth.

Christopher Gephart was quite small when his parents moved to Adams County, where he received his education in the district schools. He assisted his father in clearing the farm, which was mostly in timber, and was 21 years old when his parents moved to Van Wert County. He was married to Alice C. Dickerson, a daughter of Lewis and Hannah Dickerson, who lived in Liberty township. Lewis Dickerson owned a farm of 46 acres, besides two lots and a house in Dull. He died December 2, 1905. They reared to maturity nine children, as follows: Ardellas F., who married Jessie Smith, and lives in Glenmore and has three children; John P., who married Mamie Cowan and lives in Chicago—they have one child; Maud, who married Albert Custer, lives in Liberty township and has one child; Charles, who married Florence Adams and lives in Liberty township; Lewis Herbert, who lives on the home farm; Ilo; Claude; May and Beatrice.

Mr. Gephart owned 80 acres in Willshire township, which he sold and then moved to Mercer County where he purchased a farm of 100 acres. After residing there four years, he sold out and moved to Paulding County, where he purchased 80 acres. He lived there for the next 10 years, and then traded his farm for 105 acres in Harrison township. After remaining there three years, he again made a trade for 80 acres in the same township, and in March, 1901, he sold the land in Harrison

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RESIDENCE AND BARN OF SAMUEL A. McCULLOUGH

township and bought his present farm of 76 acres in section 22, Liberty township, where he has since resided. He has made many changes and improvements, among which may be mentioned a new frame house which he erected in 1902. Mr. Gephart is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men.



AMUEL A. McCULLOUGH is one of Tully township's influential and progressive citizens, and an extensive farmer and shipper of hay. For many years he was an instructor in the public schools, and it is a notable fact that his success has been undisputed in every branch of business to which he has devoted his energies and abilities. Mr. McCullough was born in Perry County, Ohio, March 27, 1847, being a son of William and Elizabeth (Nixon) McCullough and a grandson of William McCullough.

Our subject's grandfather was born in Ireland, and was raised by an uncle, in whose care he had been left while his parents crossed over to Scotland. As they were never heard from thereafter, it is presumed they were victims of the plague which prevailed at that time. He was 19 years old when he emigrated to America and located in Pennsylvania. In 1806 he entered land in Fairfield County, Ohio, where he lived until his death at the patriarchal age of 97 years. During his early residence there, he was asked to subscribe for a paper which was then contemplated, which was afterward established (nearly 100 years ago) and which has since been conducted as the *Ohio Eagle*. It is the oldest paper in Ohio, published without change of name or politics: it was sent regularly to the address of William McCullough during his lifetime, afterward to his son—William, and upon his death to the third and pres-

ent William, grandson of the original subscriber. No notice, however, was ever sent to the paper to change the name of the party to whom it was sent, so far as the books of the paper show, it is William, the grandfather, who still receives it.

William McCullough, the father of our subject, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and after reaching maturity moved across the line into Perry County. There he bought a tract of 160 acres, which was then considered of little value, being purchased for \$700, but four years later he sold it for \$5,000, the marked increase in value being due to the discovery of coal upon it. He then returned to Fairfield County where he died at the age of 75 years. The deceased had married Elizabeth Nixon, who was born in Virginia, a daughter of John and Rebecca (Holt) Nixon and a granddaughter of George Nixon, who was a native of England and had a son George who served in the American Army during the Revolutionary War. John Nixon, Mrs. McCullough's father, was also born in England and at an early age moved to Virginia. The Nixons were Southern soldiers during the Civil War, while some of the McCulloughs were in the Northern Army.

William and Elizabeth (Nixon) McCullough had 12 children these nine reaching maturity: Rebecca (Larimer), deceased; Jennie (Martin), who lives in West Virginia; Lucinda (McCune), of Moxhala, Ohio; Samuel A.; Maggie (Barnes), of Somerset, Ohio; Nancy (Sherburn), residing in Cowden, Illinois; J. W., who lives in the neighborhood of his old home; E. B., who is on the home farm of 320 acres in Fairfield County; and Caroline (Focht), deceased. The mother of our subject is still living at the advanced age of 86 years.

Samuel A. McCullough, whose name heads

this sketch, was eight years old when his parents removed to Fairfield County, and there he attended the district schools until he was 16 years old. He then engaged in teaching, a vocation he followed successfully for 29 years, during which period his residence continued in that county. He farmed through the summer months and taught winters. While on a visit to Bloomfield, Iowa, he was offered a position as a teacher and remained there two years, but in 1892 came to Van Wert County, and located on a farm in Hoaglin township. The following spring Mr. McCullough located on the T. S. Gilliland farm, where he remained four years, after which, for one year, he occupied the Little farm, adjoining the County Infirmary. He then purchased the 160 acre tract in Tully township on which he has since lived. This place was unimproved when he acquired it, but he has since erected a modern home, a good substantial barn and outbuildings, and made many other important improvements. The three last appraisements, all made by Dr. Leslie, indicate that Mr. McCullough's energy has been well expended. In 1880 the land was appraised at \$4 per acre; in 1890 at \$7 and in 1900 at 50 cents more per acre than any other piece of land in the township. That Mr. McCullough is of a progressive nature was shown by his activity in securing two pikes in his section of the township, over the opposition of some extensive owners, who could not appreciate the value of the work at that time, but who have since acknowledged their mistake. For 18 years past he has been largely engaged in buying and selling hay, mainly shipping to Eastern cities. Besides raising annually from 150 to 200 tons of hay on his home place, he produces some small grain—barley being the best crop, with considerable live-stock. As his farm is distinguished for being one of the highest points in the county, it is called "Grand

View", and as it commands the surrounding country for miles around the name is most appropriate.

In 1874 Samuel A. McCullough was united in marriage with Anna Jane Wright, who was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and is a daughter of William and Betsy (Hansacker) Wright. William Wright, the father, was born in Fairfield County and was an extensive dealer in all kinds of live-stock. His wife, Betsy Hansacker who came to Fairfield County from the State of Virginia, was a daughter of Jacob Hansacker, who had been captured by the Indians when a small boy and held in captivity for some 25 years; upon his escape and return to civilization, he still possessed the traits and habits of the Indians. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. McCullough: Isaac W.; Kate; Benjamin F.; and William A., who is teaching school in Pleasant township. Politically, Mr. McCullough is a Democrat, and for a number of years has efficiently served as justice of the peace. Religiously, he is a Spiritualist.

On a preceding page, in connection with this sketch, are shown views of Mr. McCullough's residence and barn.



ELIAS L. SHEETS, whose fine farm of 190 acres, all in one body, is situated in sections 7 and 18, Willshire township, was born in this township on February 1, 1857, being a son of Adam and Sarah Ann (Davis) Sheets. His grandparents were John and Catherine Sheets, natives of Pennsylvania and pioneers of Richland County, Ohio. John Sheets died when almost 80 years of age and his wife at the age of 84; they were the parents of 12 children.

Adam Sheets, father of Elias L., was born

in Richland County, Ohio, and in young manhood came to Willshire township, Van Wert County, with no capital but his trade, that of a carpenter. He became a large farmer, acquiring 340 acres of land, of which he cleared a large portion, and was also a successful stock-raiser, although he lived to be but 37 years of age. Adam Sheets married Sarah Ann Davis, who still survives him, at the age of 78 years; their children being: Mary Jane, who died young; Oliver, of Wren; Nancy A., wife of John E. Major, of Willshire township; Elmina (Mrs. Joseph Moser), of Adams County, Indiana; and Elias L., of this sketch.

Elias L. Sheets has always resided in Willshire township and is one of its best-known citizens. After his marriage he came to his present farm, in the spring of 1886 purchasing 80 acres of land, which, added to the 110 he previously owned, made one of the largest and most valuable farms of the township. The estate is a part of the Richland reservation and is mainly devoted to stock-raising. Mr. Sheets was a large buyer and shipper of live-stock for two years, handling sheep, cattle, hogs and horses. He now makes a specialty of raising the best grade of draft horses. The log buildings which were on the farm when he settled upon it have given way to attractive, modern structures of all kinds.

In June, 1883, Mr. Sheets was united in marriage with Eliza E. Lichtenstiger, born in Black Creek township, Mercer County, Ohio, in October, 1855. They have one daughter—Sarah E. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sheets are valued members of the United Brethren Church at Wren, in which the former is a trustee. Politically, Mr. Sheets is identified with the Democratic party. He is serving on the board of directors of the Wren Telephone Company and is one of the township's enterprising, successful men.



AUGUST C. GROTHOUSE, deceased, was one of the substantial business men of Delphos, where he owned property and conducted a blacksmith shop for 30 years. Born in Washington township, Van Wert County, Ohio, February 10, 1847, he was a son of John and Gertrude (Krift) Grothouse, his parents being natives of Germany. When they came to America, in 1845, they settled in Van Wert County, where the father died on January 11, 1877, and the mother in September, 1899.

Until he was 18 years of age August C. Grothouse attended school during the winters and during the summers assisted his father in clearing and cultivating the home farm. As he did not wish to be a farmer, he then learned the blacksmith's trade, receiving instruction from two excellent workmen, Charles Vonderemze and Henry Weible; and in 1872 he was prepared to go into business for himself. He opened a shop on Canal street, in partnership with Joseph Will, and they worked together for four years, when Mr. Grothouse purchased his partner's interest and removed his shop to a fine location, having bought land at the corner of Second and Canal streets. Here Mr. Grothouse transacted a large business until the time of his death, which occurred on November 14, 1902. He retained the entire tract which he had purchased until 1901, when he sold half of it to Henry and Joseph Metzger. The deceased also owned other property, and left his family well provided for, having always been industrious, prudent and far-seeing.

On October 27, 1870, Mr. Grothouse was married to Catherine Reker, who was born September 16, 1852, and is a daughter of Harman and Gertrude (Hempker) Reker. The parents of Mrs. Grothouse were born in Germany and came to Van Wert County, Ohio, in

1849, marrying in Washington township, where the father died November 3, 1883. Mrs. Reker still resides on her farm three miles from Delphos. Mr. and Mrs. Grothouse had seven children, as follows: John, who died July 30, 1872, at the age of 10 months; Anna, born December 26, 1872, who resides at home; Frank, born August 25, 1874, who continues the business founded by his father; Rose, born December 31, 1877, and Eda, born August 3, 1883, who both live at home; Frederick, born July 19, 1884, who married Amelia Barreisman of Putnam County, Ohio, and is a marble cutter at Delphos, and Sylvester, born March 11, 1890, who is employed in a large grocery house at Delphos. Mr. Grothouse lived to see his children well on the road to honorable independence, having afforded them all the advantages in his power. The family all belong to St. John's Catholic Church, at Delphos. Mr. Grothouse was a worthy member of St. Joseph's Society.

JAMES A. UNCAPHER, a prosperous resident of Van Wert County, is a prominent citizen of Ridge township where he owns a valuable farm of 80 acres located in section 35. He was born September 19, 1855, in Indiana County, Pennsylvania—which was also the birthplace of his parents, William and Sarah (Black) Uncapher—is of German descent, and inherits much of the sturdiness and thrift of the ancestral stock.

Mr. Uncapher received his schooling in Pennsylvania, and it was not until 1879 that he left that State and located in Ohio, settling in Van Wert County. He was a farmer by education and choice, and engaged in that work for some time before he purchased his present

farm in 1884. Since that year it has been his homestead, and he derives not only a considerable income from the products of the soil, but from the four oil-wells on the farm, which have a large output of crude petroleum.

On October 6, 1883, Mr. Uncapher was married to Elizabeth F. Ireland, who was born in this county January 20, 1861; is a daughter of William D. and Martha M. (Stemen) Ireland, both natives of this State, and is a lady possessing many charms of mind and heart. Mrs. Uncapher is one of seven children now living, viz.: John S.; Mary M., wife of George H. Poe, of Hardin County; Eliza J., wife of Jacob C. Smith; Lydia A., wife of John Chamberlain, of Isabella County, Michigan; Rachel L., wife of H. S. Sanders; Christian S., of York township; and Elizabeth F., wife of our subject. To Mr. and Mrs. Uncapher five children have been born, namely: Goldie B., wife of Charles R. Downing, of Jackson township, and the mother of one child, Alta Leola; Mattie M.; Iva B.; William A. and Elmer D. Both he and his wife are members of the Whitfield Methodist Church, of which he is trustee. Mr. Uncapher is a Republican, and was for many years a member of the School Board of Ridge township, but is now devoting his entire time to his private interests. Fraternally, he is identified with the lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Van Wert.

JOSEPH AGLER, a well known resident and prosperous farmer of Liberty township, living on a farm of 80 acres in section 19, was born in Stark County, Ohio, August 1, 1835. He is a son of Conrad and Margaret (Wagner) Agler and grandson of William Agler, who was of English descent and an old settler of Pennsylvania.

Conrad Agler, the father, was born in Pennsylvania, but when he was about 15 years of age his parents moved to Stark County and located on a farm of 160 acres, where Conrad remained until after his marriage. He then moved to Van Wert County and purchased a farm of 80 acres in Liberty township, which he occupied until his death in 1860. He was the father of 13 children—nine girls and four boys—our subject being the youngest son.

Joseph Agler was practically reared in Van Wert County, whither his parents moved when he was six years old. He can remember the time when this section of Ohio was all a wilderness and bears, wolves and deer were plentiful. In 1856 Mr. Agler was married to Susan Neiferd, a daughter of George and Mary Neiferd, old residents of Van Wert County, who originally came from Stark County. After his marriage Mr. Agler lived on his father's farm for several years, and in 1873 bought his present homestead of 80 acres, which is very valuable because of the discovery that there is oil under it. He has seven oil-wells on the farm, six of which are producers and now in operation.

To Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Agler were born seven children, four of whom still live, namely: Charity Ann, who married George D. Johnson, of Liberty township, and has four children—Birdie, Cary, Willis and Laura; Willis, who married Ida Walters and has nine children—Frank, Lewis, Fred, Joseph, Grace, James, Clark, Roy and Besse; Isaac, who married Louisa Voltz, lives on a part of the old farm and has seven children—Susie, Florence, Wilma, Georgia, Doral, Bertha and Leland; and Frank, who married Florence Humrick-house, lives in Mercer County and has one child—Harold. Conrad, the eldest born, died at the age of 22; one child died shortly after birth; Nancy, who was the wife of Alonzo Smith,

left four children at her death—Bertha, Vernie, Fay and Etho. Mr. Agler and his family are all members of the United Brethren Church.




SIMON BECHTOL resides in section 11, Hoaglin township, and occupies a place in the ranks of the representative men of Van Wert County. He was born in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, November 18, 1840, and is a son of Samuel and Catherine (Long) Bechtol. His parents were also natives of Pennsylvania, but when Simon was about four years of age they moved to Marion County, Ohio, where they remained about 10 years, coming thence to Allen County in 1854. Mr. Bechtol has a brother, Israel, and a sister, Catherine A. (Mrs. Henry Kelly), residing in Van Wert County.

Simon Bechtol attended the district schools and then engaged in farming until the spring of 1861, when he enlisted for service in Company A, First Ohio Squadron, and served one year. In August, 1862, he reenlisted in Company A, 118th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf. A more fearless soldier never entered the ranks, and the many scars he carries are vivid reminders of the fierce contests in which he engaged. Among the generals under whom he fought were Burnside and Thomas, and the battles in which he participated were as follows: Mossy Creek, Buzzard's Roost, Snake Creek Gap, siege of Atlanta, siege of Knoxville, battle of Loudon, siege of Nashville, Chattanooga, Duck River; Franklin, where the contending armies met in a hand to hand fight and where Mr. Bechtol was shot through the arm and received two sabre cuts; siege of Fort Andrew, where he was wounded by the flying fragments of a shell; and many other battles. He was close at hand when the Confederate President, Jefferson Davis, was captured, and served until

the close of the war, receiving an honorable discharge June 24, 1865. Returning to Allen County, he farmed for many years and then moved to Van Wert County, in the fall of 1888. After living in Union township about four years, he moved to the farm he now occupies in Hoaglin township.

Mr. Bechtol was married in 1862 to Sarah Furrey, native of Fairfield County, Ohio, who bore him one son, William, now deceased. On September 11, 1882, Mrs. Bechtol died and on October 21, 1883, Simon Bechtol was joined in marriage to Barbara Dias. The present Mrs. Bechtol was born November 30, 1861, in Scioto County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Richard and Mary (McElhaney) Dias, who were natives of Pennsylvania. She was reared to young womanhood in Scioto County where her father having died, her mother chose as her second husband William Ambler. When she was about 18 the family removed to Fayette County, where they lived two years before moving to Van Wert County and settling in Ridge township where her brother, William R. Dias, now lives. Another brother, John C. Dias, lives in Pleasant township. Her mother died in Union township November 9, 1897. Mr. and Mrs. Bechtol have nine children, viz: Goldie M., wife of J. R. Jones; Sylvia F.; Mary C.; Simon H.; Samuel M.; Retta F.; John E.; Mildred R. and Gladys M. Mr. Bechtol is a Republican in politics.

 ADAM BOLLENBACHER, an influential and progressive farmer living on a fine farm in section 23, Harrison township, in October, 1905, had been a resident of Van Wert County for 17 years, coming from Mercer County, Ohio, where he was born November 1, 1866. He is a son of Adam and Christina (Koch) Bollenbacher.

Our subject's father was born in Germany and was over 21 years of age when he emigrated to the United States and located in Liberty township, Mercer County, where he died in April, 1902. There all of his children, except our subject, still reside.

Adam Bollenbacher was reared on a farm and remained at home until he was nearly 22 years of age, when he came to Van Wert County and purchased the farm of 80 acres upon which he is now located. Later he added 40 acres to his original purchase and also operates the Miltenberger farm of 60 acres.

Mr. Bollenbacher was married, October 21, 1888, to Maggie Miltenberger, who was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, a daughter of William and Mary Elizabeth (Wendel) Miltenberger. They have two children: Oscar, who is attending the Van Wert High School, and Lydia, who is living at home. Mr. and Mrs. Bollenbacher are both members of the Evangelical Church.

In 1899 Mr. Bollenbacher built his present fine, modern home and has made many other improvements on the farm. He is an up-to-date man, in every respect, possessed of exceptional business ability, and is financially interested in the National Bank of Convoy. Politically he is a Democrat and has served twice as supervisor.



S. CRAMER, M. D., one of the well-established and able physicians and surgeons at Ohio City, was born in Seneca County, Ohio, in 1861, and is a son of John Cramer.

The father of Dr. Cramer, moved from Seneca to Van Wert County in 1864, settling on land which he subsequently cleared and developed into a fine farm. He became a man

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JOHN BLACK -

of substance and prominence and lived to old age, dying in 1905, at the age of 84 years.

M. S. Cramer was two years of age when his parents located on the farm in Van Wert County, where he grew to manhood. He was afforded educational advantages in Van Wert and prior to entering Starling Medical College, taught school for five years, in the meantime making ready for his chosen profession. Dr. Cramer was graduated at the above mentioned college in 1888, and at once located at Ohio City, where he has been engaged in continuous practice for the past 18 years. He stands very high among the medical men of the State, and enjoys a large measure of popularity in his own city. For the past 16 years Dr. Cramer has served as surgeon for the Erie Railroad, during this time having had a varied and beneficial experience. He is president of the Association of Erie Railroad Surgeons. He is also examining surgeon for several reputable life insurance companies, and is examining surgeon, and for the past eight years has been president, of the local examining board of the Bureau of Pensions. Dr. Cramer was an active member of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association which has been merged into the Third and Fourth Councilor Districts of the Ohio State Medical Association, with which the Doctor is now actively identified. Dr. Frank D. Bain, of Kenton, Ohio, is the councilor for this district; the president of the council is Dr. Brooks F. Beebe, of Cincinnati.

In 1893 Dr. Cramer was married to Florence E. Runnion, who is a daughter of E. N. Runnion, who for years was a business man of Ohio City. They have two children, Donald R. and John E. The family belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Dr. Cramer is interested in all its various benevolent enterprises. Fraternally he belongs to the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias.

 JOHN BLACK, the well-known agriculturist of Union township, whose portrait is shown on the opposite page, is a son of Matthew and Catherine Black and was born in Richland County, Ohio, November 10, 1843. Both parents were of German descent, the maternal grandparents being natives of Germany.

Matthew Black was born in Adams County, Pennsylvania, February 4, 1817, and his wife March 13, 1821, she being a native of the same locality. It was not until they had both moved to Richland County, Ohio, that they became acquainted, and there they passed the first few years of their married life. In 1842, the husband came to Van Wert County and entered 80 acres of land—40 in Union and 40 in Hoaglin township. In 1848 he moved his family to this farm and, by later purchase, added a tract of 160 acres. At the time of his death, February 12, 1872, he had about 50 acres cleared, most of the present improvements having been made by his sons. There were six children in the family, viz.: John; Adam; Elizabeth, wife of Charles Mohr, Jr.; George, who died at the age of 16 years; Henry; and Sarah, wife of Samuel Albright, of Putnam County, Ohio.

Matthew Black was a man whose honor and integrity were above question, and won him general confidence and esteem. Being a poor man, he worked in a sawmill in Richland County until he had saved sufficient money to enter his original land and bring his family here, but at his death he left a substantial estate and, of even greater value, the rich legacy of an honored name. At different times he served as township trustee and held a number of minor offices. In politics he was a Republican and a strong anti-slavery man, having been reared by a Whig step-father, his own father having died before his birth. He was a devoted mem-

ber of the new school Lutheran Church, and aided materially in its support. His wife survived him many years, passing away January 30, 1902.

John Black has been a hard working man, spending his time in farming and in the line of carpentry, having been a resident of Union township since his fifth year. As the other children grew up and left the old home, it fell to his lot to take care of his aged mother, and it was with pleasure that he tended her declining years. Mr. Black was made the administrator of his father's estate, and the handsome residence was built under his supervision. He now owns 120 acres of land in section 1, Union township, and is a first-class farmer in every respect. Mr. Black is a Republican and was at one time supervisor of the roads in this district; also served as school director for several years. He is trustee and secretary of the Evangelical Church Association in Hoaglin township, and has been the efficient superintendent of the Sunday-school several times. Fraternally, he belongs to Tribe No. 102, I. O. R. M., at Scott, and is a man whose sterling worth brings him the esteem of his friends and of the community at large.



GEORGE C. YOH, one of the leading men and successful agriculturists of Hoaglin township, who resides on his fine farm of 70 acres, located in section 9, was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, December 15, 1857, and is a son of Jacob and Sarah (Plank) Yoh.

The parents of Mr. Yoh were natives of Pennsylvania. They came to Ohio at a very early day, and settled in Seneca County, where they resided for a number of years. In 1852 they removed to Van Wert County and

located in Hoaglin township, where both subsequently passed away. They were among the most highly respected residents here, worthy and consistent members of the Grand Victory Evangelical Church.

George C. Yoh was reared in Hoaglin township and attended the district schools in the neighborhood of his home. He was reared to farm life, and agricultural pursuits have claimed his attention ever since. He is a man of progressive ideas, and carries on his large agricultural operations with the assistance of modern machinery and according to modern methods.

On December 14, 1879, Mr. Yoh was united in marriage with Hannah Snyder, who was born January 26, 1863, in Hocking County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Daniel and Mary (Stabaugh) Snyder, the latter of whom died when Mrs. Yoh was a child of five years. Her father now resides in Mercer County, where he moved in Mrs. Yoh's childhood, and where she grew to marriageable age. Mr. and Mrs. Yoh have had five children, namely: Ansel M., born December 2, 1880; Mertie M., born May 17, 1883; Mary Leotie, born October 20, 1885; Zelma A., born August 20, 1887; and George W., born July 18, 1898. Mertie M. died August 1, 1893, aged 10 years. The other members of the family are all at home with the exception of Zelma A., who is the wife of Roy Baker, of Hoaglin township; and Ansel M., who married Ina Busick, and resides at Grover Hill, Ohio.

In politics Mr. Yoh is an active Republican, and he takes considerable interest in public matters, as becomes a good and intelligent citizen. He is a member of Alpha Lodge, No. 1, Home Guards of America, a beneficiary organization which has many members in Ohio. Both he and his wife belong to the Grand Victory Evangelical Church, of which

he is one of the stewards and a liberal supporter. Mrs. Yoh belongs to the Ladies' Aid Society of this church.

MARTIN WISE has been closely identified with the history of Van Wert County for the past 33 years, during which time he has been located on his farm, which originally comprised 80 acres in section 9, Jackson township. To this property 40 acres were added some time ago. A man of strong character, he has been a powerful factor in the township and has exerted a beneficent influence on those among whom he has lived. He has taken great pleasure in the steady growth and prosperity of the county to which he has largely contributed. Mr. Wise was born February 27, 1845, in Erie County, New York, his parents being George and Saloma (Gerhard) Wise, who were born in Baden, Germany, and there married. Coming to America shortly before the birth of our subject, they settled in Erie County, New York, where the father died before Martin had reached his 10th year.

Leaving New York, Martin Wise came to Ohio, and for several years made his home with his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Krouse, of Putnam County. When old enough to do for himself, he secured employment on the Miami and Erie Canal in Ohio, and was so employed for 12 years. While living in Putnam County, he was married to Susan Harpster of that county, by whom he had one child, Sarah E., since deceased. His second union was with Elizabeth C. Leatherman, to whom he was married October 31, 1875. The present Mrs. Wise is a native of Allen County, Ohio, born September 28, 1855, and is a daughter of Daniel

and Mary A. (Allstetter) Leatherman. Her father, now deceased, was a native of Allen County, Ohio, and her mother, who now resides in Paulding County, was a native of Germany, where she was born April 9, 1827. Mrs. Wise was one of 12 children, seven of whom are living, viz.: Matilda, wife of George Butler, of Putnam County; Jacob E., of Paulding County; Elizabeth C. (Mrs. Wise); Peter, of Paulding County; Louisa J., wife of Noah Myers, of Paulding County; Sarah A., wife of Marion Ayers, of Paulding County; and William, who lives in Illinois.

Six children have been born to our subject and his estimable wife, namely: John, who lives in Paulding County; Laura, wife of Walter Spraw, of Paulding County; Florence, a teacher in the Ohio City public schools; George, deceased; Charles C., who is at home, as is David M. Mr. Wise was an efficient trustee of Jackson township for a period of seven years, and is at present a director of school district No. 1. Mr. and Mrs. Wise are valued members of the Christian Union Church. Mr. Wise is a prominent member of Hope Lodge, No. 214, F. & A. M., at Delphos. He is a Democrat in politics.

MATHIAS FISCHER, whose death occurred April 11, 1895, was one of the highly respected men and successful farmers of Washington township, where he owned a fine farm of 80 acres, situated in section 36. Mr. Fischer was born in Hanover, Germany, November 11, 1844, and was a son of Henry Fischer, who died in Germany.

Throughout his boyhood Mathias Fischer attended school in Germany, and when he attained the legal age entered the army to serve as the German law requires, but when there

was a probability that he would be sent on military service to Prussia he decided to emigrate to the United States. At this time he was 25 years of age. Landing in the port of New York, he soon made his way to Delphos, Ohio, where he found remunerative work in a stave factory. Being industrious and temperate, he soon acquired some capital, which he increased during a year's residence with an uncle at Landeck, and then returned to Delphos. Subsequently he purchased the farm which his widow still occupies, making many substantial improvements upon it and developing it into a valuable property.

On September 7, 1871, Mr. Fischer was united in marriage with Elizabeth Wegesin, a daughter of Herman and Gertrude (Baumgarten) Wegesin, who were born in Germany and married at Delphos. The father died in 1884, but the aged mother still survives and lives with Mrs. Fischer.

Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Fischer had six children, namely: Kate, who married Fred Gorman and lives at Fort Wayne, Indiana; Henry, living at home; Frank; Rosa, Benjamin and Anna. The last named entered the convent at Cleveland, Ohio, as a member of that noble Christian community, the Sisters of Charity, and bore the name of Sister Mary Frederica. Her beautiful life came to a close on March 28, 1899. All the family belong to St. John's Catholic Church at Delphos, and Mr. Fischer himself was a member of St. Joseph's Society.



SOLOMON PUTMAN, one of the representative men and substantial farmers of Liberty township, resides on his fine farm in section 32. With his wife he owns 158 acres, 80 of which are in the home place and 78 in section 31. Mr. Putman

was born in Dublin township, Mercer County, Ohio, March 11, 1858, and is a son of Isaac and Sophia (Mihm) Putman.

Peter Putman, the grandfather of our subject, was one of the pioneers who settled at a very early day in Van Wert County. Here he reared his family and died. Isaac Putman was a successful farmer in Mercer County.


Solomon Putman was reared in Mercer County and there went to school. In 1880 he was united in marriage with Mary D. Brubaker, who is a daughter of the late Peter Brubaker and a sister of Naaman Brubaker, of whom an extended sketch will be found in this work. Peter Brubaker married Catherine Dull of Lafayette County, Pennsylvania; they had a family of 10 children. In December, 1850, Mr. and Mrs. Putman moved to their present home in Liberty township. This land at the time belonged to the late Peter Brubaker. At his death Mrs. Putman inherited 73 acres of the land, as did also, her sister, Mrs. Nettie Smith. Mr. Putman bought Mrs. Smith's inheritance, and later purchased 12 acres from his brother-in-law, Naaman Brubaker, and now possesses a very fine farm. He has made many improvements here, among which may be mentioned his large frame house, a very comfortable and attractive residence, which he built in the fall of 1899.

Mr. and Mrs. Putman have nine children, as follows: Bertha, who married Peter Shindecker and resides in Indiana; Peter, who married Gertrude Williams, a daughter of Wallace N. Williams and resides in Liberty township—they have one son, Stanley; and Isaac B., Curtis, Naaman B., Ellen May, Arthur B., Sherman B. and Edgar B., all at home.

Mr. Putman is very well-known through Liberty township, and very highly respected. He served one term as township trustee, retir-



ing from office on January 1, 1906, and for seven years was a member of the School Board of Education. He belongs to the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

NOCH M. HOAGLIN. Among the old and honorable family names of Hoaglin township, none is more justly held in esteem than that of Hoaglin, which is preserved in the township's name. The late Enoch M. Hoaglin was a worthy member of this family which has been identified so many years with the northern section of the county. He was born in Richland County, Ohio, March 20, 1836, and died in Van Wert County, December 19, 1903. He was a son of Enoch Hoaglin.

The father was one of the pioneer teachers of Hoaglin township, and for a number of years taught in various parts of the township, also serving at one time as a justice of the peace. His log cabin was a meeting place not only for judicial functions, but was the center of social life and also the scene of the first religious exercises ever held here. He lived on the banks of Hoaglin Creek, also named in his honor, and died at an advanced age, some years since, at Middlepoint, Ohio.

Enoch M. Hoaglin was five years old when in 1841, he accompanied his parents to Van Wert County, where he was reared amid pioneer conditions. He attended school in the little log structure built for this purpose, in his district, and had advantages superior to those enjoyed by many others, on account of his father being an unusually well-informed man. Even so he had not the advantages afforded the youth of the present; but that fact did not interfere with his becoming an intelligent, well-

balanced man, whose advice and judgment were frequently consulted by his fellow-citizens in later life. He was a practical farmer and, at the time of his death, was able to leave a large estate to his family.

On December 1, 1853, Mr. Hoaglin was married to Elizabeth Holtrey, who was born December 17, 1835, in Licking County, Ohio, and is a daughter of John and Eliza (Roahn) Holtrey. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, Mrs. Hoaglin being 13 years old when they moved from Licking to Van Wert County, Ohio, and settled in Hoaglin township, as one of its pioneer families.

The children born to Enoch M. Hoaglin and wife were eight in number and seven of these still survive, viz.: Eliza M. (Mrs. James Fife) and Elverta (Mrs. John Rank), both of Union township; Mary E. (Mrs. Albert Fife), McClellan C., Emma (Mrs. Milton J. Coil) and Adelia M. (Mrs. Samuel Mohr)—all four residing in Hoaglin township; and John W., who resides with his mother in the township named. George W. is deceased. Mrs. Hoaglin owns the well-improved farm of 100 acres, left by her husband, upon which she has spent a large part of her life, bravely facing the many pioneer hardships of her earlier years and still residing there as one of the township's most highly esteemed ladies.

The late Enoch M. Hoaglin was a man of the highest integrity and was frequently urged to accept public office. In politics he was a Democrat. For some years he was a trustee of the township and an esteemed member of the Hoaglin Grange. In religious belief he was a Methodist, but, on account of the long distance to the church of his membership, during the last few years of his life he worshiped with the Evangelical Church, known as the Grand Victory. It is not too much to say that the late Mr. Hoaglin was respected by all who

knew him, for he was one of the finest types of a good citizen and honorable man that ever resided in this section. A picture of the Hoaglin family accompanies this sketch.

JOHAN C. RANK, a prominent farmer and stock-raiser, whose homestead is located in section 14, Union township, was born July 5, 1857, on the farm upon which he now resides, and is widely and favorably known throughout this entire section. He is a son of Samuel and Mary (Koser) Rank, natives of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, who were the parents of 10 children, viz.: Elizabeth (Coffey), Sarah (Dice), George W., and Lida (Calhoun) all deceased; Jennie (Barr), of Van Wert; Kate (Kammel), deceased; Jacob, of Van Wert; Maggie (Beck), of Union township; Samuel, of Van Wert; and John C. In 1863 the father dropped dead while going for a load of hay in his field, dying at the age of 56 years, his wife surviving him until 1895, when she passed away at the age of 82 years.

John C. Rank has always given his attention to farming and is one of the leading agriculturists of Van Wert County. In addition to operating his own tract of 56 acres, he also cultivates the adjoining farm of his brother and raises considerable stock in connection with his general farming. He has a well-improved place with new house, barns and other out-buildings, and is a progressive man who believes in using modern methods.

John C. Rank was married in 1879 to Cynthia Alberta Hoaglin, of Hoaglin township, and a daughter of Enoch M. and Elizabeth Hoaglin. They are the parents of four children, namely: A. Theodore, a physician; Bertha, who died at the age of six years;

Omah; and John E. The younger children are in school, John E. being a student in the Van Wert High School.

After graduating from the common schools, A. Theodore Rank, oldest child of our subject, taught a number of years before entering the Ohio Northern University, at Ada, where he remained two terms. He graduated from the Tri-State Normal College, at Angola, Indiana; spent three years in the Cincinnati Medical College, and then went to West Virginia, where he successfully passed the State medical examination and practiced for one year. Returning to Cincinnati, he reentered the college, and then took the complete four years' course, which he completed in May, 1906. Dr. Rank married Florence Kimmel, a former teacher in the Van Wert High School, and has one child—Fred Theodore, born March 20, 1905.

John C. Rank is a Democrat in politics (although voted for Roosevelt for President) and was school director many years. He is a member of North Union Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he has been class leader for 25 years and chorister for 30 years. Fraternally he is a member of the Royal Arcanum lodge at Van Wert.

JOHAN P. SHARKEY, superintendent of the schools of Van Wert County, and one of the well-known educators of the State, was born in Virginia, March 25, 1857, being a son of Gideon and Mary (Malory) Sharkey. The father of Mr. Sharkey was a contractor and a millwright during his active years and is still living at the advanced age of 90 years, the father of three children.

John P. Sharkey was reared in Virginia,

received a liberal education, and for more than 22 years has followed the profession of teacher. For 12 years he was superintendent of the schools of Eaton, Ohio, following a period as principal of the Shandon High School, in Butler County. In 1898 he was invited to become superintendent of the schools of Van Wert County, and has filled that honorable office for the past seven years. He has under his charge some 36 teachers and 1,600 pupils, and the improvement shown in the educational work of the county since he became head of the system speaks well for the permanent benefits of his administration. In educational circles he is well known in every part of the State and is a member of the State Board of School Examiners.

Mr. Sharkey was united in marriage with Laura Ressler, who is a daughter of Henry Ressler, and they have three children: Clare G., a constructing engineer, located at Dayton, Ohio; Lucile, a student in the Ohio State University; and Katherine Elizabeth, who is still at home. The family belong to the Presbyterian Church, and their pleasant, hospitable home is situated at No. 295 South Cherry street, Van Wert. In political sentiment Mr. Sharkey is a Republican. Fraternally he is a Mason and a Knight of Pythias.

J. BAUGHER, who for several years has successfully conducted a blacksmith shop at Ohio City, was born in Hancock County, Ohio, in 1867, and is a son of Joseph Baugher, who was a well-known farmer of Mercer County.

When only 11 years of age, Mr. Baugher's parents moved to Mercer County, where he was reared. He was educated in its common schools, and early in life learned the black-

smith's trade at Rockford, remaining there two and a half years, and afterward working at Chattanooga, Ohio, Celina and St. Marys. On May 20, 1902, he removed to Ohio City and engaged in business for himself, at that time opening his present shop, where he does general blacksmithing and repairing. He is an expert at horseshoeing and has a large patronage.

A. J. Baugher was married, in 1892, to Sarah Gorham of St. Marys. They are the owners of a pleasant home in Ohio City. Mr. Baugher is a member of the Woodmen of the World, Knights of the Maccabees and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, lodge and encampment.

JOHN JARVIS JONES, a retired resident of Venedocia, has been identified with Van Wert County since the days when dense woods covered a large portion of it, and game and wild birds were plentiful where now stand substantial buildings, cultivated farms and villages, all connected by rapid lines of transportation. Mr. Jones was born in the parish of Pennant, North Wales, May 26, 1826, and is a son of John and Catherine (Jarvis) Jones. His parents were natives of Montgomeryshire, North Wales, and of their six children, the following survive: John Jarvis, the eldest born; Margaret (Richards), who lives in Montgomeryshire; and Evan, a noted divine, who resides in Caernarvonshire, Wales.

It has been often remarked that an illiterate Welshman is rare, the school laws of Wales making it almost impossible for her sturdy sons to leave her shores in the shadows of ignorance. Being a young man of native intelligence, John J. Jones was especially well educated prior to coming to America. Arriv-

ing at the port of New York in June, 1851, after a trip of seven weeks, the sailing vessel "Guy Mannering" safely deposited in the first city of America its mixed human freight of 1,000 individuals, composed of English, German, Irish, Scotch and Welsh immigrants. Mr. Jones was one of these. He made his way from New York to Cincinnati, adding to his capital by working in a boiler shop in the latter city, until he had learned that better opportunities awaited those willing to labor, in Van Wert County. When he arrived, there was but a single house standing between Spencer-ville and Jennings Prairie. The forests still harbored bears, wolves and deer; there were plenty of squirrels and turkeys, and, as Mr. Jones humorously expressed it, "concerts were given by the blackbirds in one swamp, which were equaled by the frogs in another." Mr. Jones found plenty of hard, physical labor here, assisting settlers in clearing the land, in grubbing out the roots of forest giants and in building the early log cabins. He became almost an expert in the making of corduroy roads—those necessities in a wet and swampy section, which have long since been displaced by gravel and rubble, while drainage has redeemed the land. For work of this kind Mr. Jones received \$13 a month and he continued to perform it for four years.

In 1857 Mr. Jones visited Iowa, but in 1860 returned to Van Wert, where he engaged to work by the year; but on August 19, 1862, at Delphos, he entered the Union service, enlisting at Delphos, in Company F, 118th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and serving under Generals Doyle, Burnside, Judah and Scofield. The 118th Ohio was attached to the Army of the Cumberland. He participated in a number of battles, notably those of Moose Creek, Kingston, Franklin and Nashville, the various engagements aggregating 24. At Knoxville,

Tennessee, he was confined for six weeks in a hospital, and on account of disabilities, resulting from his three years of hard service, receives a pension of \$24 per month.

Mr. Jones is an independent thinker, both in politics and religion. He is a good American citizen, although not born on American soil, and believes in giving practical support to statesmen whose actions prove that they have the best interests of the country at heart. He expresses admiration for the character of such men as Abraham Lincoln, Grover Cleveland and Theodore Roosevelt. During his residence in Venedocia Mr. Jones has accumulated considerable valuable property and has done considerable building here. Through his just philanthropy, he has made it possible for many people to obtain comfortable homes without being burdened by embarrassing debts or heavy interest. He stands very high in public esteem and possibly is as well known as any other resident of the village, being a man of wide reading and enlightened views. Mr. Jones is unmarried.

JOHN WILLARD SWITZER, a trustee of Liberty township and one of the most prominent young farmers of the section, owner of a valuable farm of 40 acres in section 16, was born in this township, February 20, 1877. He is a son of John A. and Mary Jane (Morehead) Switzer, both of whom are still living and residing in Liberty township.

John A. Switzer, the father, is a son of Frederick Switzer, of German birth, who came to America and spent the greater portion of his life here. John A. Switzer was born in Ustoria, Ohio, where he was reared and educated. At the age of 18 years he enlisted in the vol-

unteer service of his State. He served throughout the entire Civil war, at the close of which he came to Van Wert County, where he was married and raised a family of 11 children, of whom John Willard was the fifth in order of birth.

John Willard Switzer has spent his entire life in his native county, and here received a common-school education. On March 3, 1893, he was united in marriage with Lillian Everett who is a daughter of Thomas and Mahala Everett. Her grandfather was a native of New York State, but later moved to Allen County, Ohio, where he died at the age of 45 when his son Thomas was but nine years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Switzer have one son and one daughter—Dean and Wanda.

Mr. Switzer has always been engaged in agriculture, and his farm, besides being well improved, is otherwise a very valuable piece of land, four producing oil-wells upon it being kept in operation. Mr. Switzer is a man of enterprise and public spirit, and in the fall of 1904 was elected township trustee by the Republican party, his term of service being for three years. He is a member and one of the first officers of the lodge of the Fraternal Order of Eagles at Ohio City, which was recently organized.

ABRAMHAM LINCOLN POLLOCK, for many years one of the most successful farmers of Washington township, who owns and operates a fine productive farm of 42 acres in section 31, was born on a farm adjoining his present home, in Jennings township, Van Wert County, Ohio, and is the oldest son of Asa and Mary (Leathers) Pollock.


Asa Pollock was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, in 1823. When he was 13 years of

age his parents, Thomas and Elizabeth Pollock, settled in Ridge township, Van Wert County, just across the road from the present home of our subject. Thomas Pollock, the grandfather, was one of the pioneer settlers of Van Wert County, and at one time owned 1,000 acres of land. Mr. and Mrs. Asa Pollock had 11 children, all but two of whom are living, the family record being as follows: John, who died aged 18 months; Alfretta, wife of Jacob Turner, of Van Wert; Vesta Ellen, who married Jacob M. Dibert and lives in York township; Abraham L., subject of this sketch; Allen B., of York township; Catherine E., who married J. B. Wilcox, of Delphos; Hugh Grant, who lives in Middlepoint and is the manager of the Pollock Grain & Elevator Company; Louis Otto, of Cumberland, Iowa; William H., who resides on the old homestead in Jennings township; Jesse L., also living on the home place, and Charles, who died in infancy. Mrs. Asa Pollock, who lives in the old home in Jennings township, is a daughter of Christian Leathers, who came to this county from Fairfield County, Ohio, at a very early day.

Abraham L. Pollock was reared and received his education in Van Wert County, being married (first) to Clara Ziegler, daughter of Noah and Elizabeth Ziegler, of York township. They had two children—Myrtle, who died June 19, 1901, aged 16 years; and Russell. Mrs. Clara Pollock died November 26, 1900. Mr. Pollock's second marriage was on March 8, 1902, to Ethel Van Tilburg, of Hartford City, Indiana. They had two children—John, born February 12, 1903, and Eugene, born July 29, 1904. Mrs. Ethel Pollock died March 28, 1905.

In 1899 Mr. Pollock erected a large frame house, a decided addition to the value of the farm, which, in improvements and develop-


ment, compares favorably with any in the township. He is also a member of the firm which operates the Pollock Grain & Elevator Company, previously mentioned. Religiously, Mr. Pollock is a member of the Ridge Methodist Episcopal Church and for three years was one of the deacons of that organization.

 HARLES DAVIS, a farmer of Ridge township, the owner of 80 acres of land in section 25, was born in St. Marys, Ohio, November 16, 1845, and is a son of John and Sophia (Benner) Davis. The father came from Hocking County to Van Wert County at an early day. He enlisted from this county for service in the Civil war and while in the army contracted the measles, from which he died at Bowling Green, Kentucky, in 1861.

Charles Davis attended school until his 15th year, when he began working on the farm. On October 3, 1864, he enlisted in Company C, 47th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and was in the 15th Army Corps under Gen. John A. Logan, with General Sherman, commander-in-chief. He took part in the fight at Fort McAllister, Georgia, and started with Sherman in the march to the sea, but was taken ill at Raleigh, North Carolina, and was sent to Chestnut Hill Hospital, Philadelphia, where he was honorably discharged June 15, 1865. Taking up the life of a private citizen once more, he engaged in farming in Washington township until 1877, when he purchased his present farm upon which he has since resided.

Mr. Davis was married February 11, 1868, to Mary J. Hire, daughter of Jeremiah Hire, deceased, and a well-known resident of Washington township for many years. Two children have been born to this worthy couple:

Sylvester S.; and Minnie C. S., the wife of L. A. Price, formerly of Mercer County, Ohio, now of Ridge township, Van Wert County. Sylvester S. Davis was a young man of excellent character and integrity. He was married to Hannah L. Faupett of Washington township, by whom he had one son, Eugene, who lives in Middlepoint with his mother. Sylvester S. Davis died August 15, 1904, cut down in the prime of manhood, but he left behind him the heritage of a good and noble name and the love and esteem of all who knew him. Mrs. Davis died September 29, 1904. Mr. Davis is a member of the G. A. R. post at Middlepoint, of which he is past commander. He is also a member of the tent of the Improved Order of Red Men at that place and also belongs to the Society of Friends.

 AMES W. RUMBLE, an influential farmer of Van Wert County and a trustee of Hoaglin township, resides on a farm of 80 acres in section 8, which he purchased about five years ago. He was born January 8, 1868, in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, his parents, Henry and Pauline (Leech) Rumble, being also natives of that State.

Henry Rumble was of German stock. In 1876 he left Pennsylvania with his family, and for a time was located in Allen County, Ohio, coming thence to Van Wert County and settling in Hoaglin township. Here he took an active part in all that pertained to the advancement of the general public, serving as commissioner of Van Wert County at one time, and for a number of years filling the office of justice of the peace in a fearless and praiseworthy manner. Squire Rumble, as he is affectionately known by his friends, is now in his 80th year, and has resided in Van Wert for



CHARLES L. LEHMANN

several years. His children are Bruce W., of Ironton, Ohio; Annie B. (Mrs. P. F. Remagen); Alexander C., of California; Susan (Mrs. C. H. Hymen); and James W. Mr. Rumble has long been a supporter of Republican principles.

James W. Rumble farms because he likes the work, and his land shows the result of the care and thought expended in its cultivation. He is a lover of fine horses and a breeder of standard bred roadsters—horses that will compare favorably with any in the county. Mr. Rumble was married in January 10, 1889, to Lydia E. Mohr, daughter of Gottlieb and Sarah A. (Snealy) Mohr, highly-respected residents of Hoaglin township. Gottlieb Mohr is a native of Germany, while his wife was born in Ohio. He is a stalwart Republican, and for a number of terms was treasurer of the township. His surviving children are as follows: Edward G., of Union township; Susie M., wife of William M. Hoaglin, of Cavett; Cassie S., wife of George A. Foust, of Hoaglin township; Lydia E., wife of Mr. Rumble; Alta J., wife of Wilbur Moon, of Paulding County, Ohio; Hattie, wife of James Cavanaugh, of Cavett; and Walter J., of Hoaglin township. Six children have blessed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rumble, namely: Dale E., Nellie G., G. Bruce, Frank H., Sarah L. and Harriet A. They are members of the Evangelical Association and of the Home Guards of America, and count their friends by the score.




CHARLES L. LEHMANN, a well-known farmer, fruit grower and bee raiser, of Washington township, who lives on his valuable farm of 160 acres, 80 acres of which are situated in section 16 and the remainder in section 9, was

born in Charloe, Paulding County, Ohio, June 18, 1844, and is a son of Gabriel and Anna Elizabeth (Bockman) Lehmann.

Gabriel Lehmann was born in Baden, Germany, March 19, 1819, and was the son of Leopold Lehmann, who was also a native of Germany and was a soldier under Napoleon in Spain, when only 15 years of age. Gabriel Lehmann came to America in 1830 with his parents, who located first in Columbus, Ohio, where he completed his education. Later he and his father moved to Sandusky, Ohio; his mother having died during their first year in Columbus. He was married in Paulding County, to Anna Elizabeth Bochman, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Bochman, who were natives of Germany, where her father died when she was but five years old. Mrs. Lehmann was also born in Germany. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Lehmann moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana, one year later returning to Paulding County. In 1845 they located at Delphos, making the trip in one of the first boats that run on the canal, and here they lived until 1860, when they purchased their present farm, being among the first of the pioneer settlers. During the Civil War Mr. Lehmann was a member of the 55th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., and was with Sherman on his famous march from "Atlanta to the Sea." Mr. and Mrs. Lehmann had four children, but two of whom still live, namely: Henry G., who resides in Van Wert and is married, who was a soldier in the Civil War, serving for four years in the 32nd Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., under Grant; and Charles L., of this sketch. Frederick died in 1876 aged 30 years, and Matilda passed away at the age of 27 years. Gabriel Lehmann, the father of the family, died February 28, 1879.

Charles L. Lehmann has lived in Van Wert County since he was a child one year of

age, receiving his early educational training in the schools of Delphos. He has never married and lives with his widowed mother, who is a respected member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Lehmann is an extensive fruit grower, and has a fine orchard of about 10 acres of apples, peaches, pears, cherries and plums. He also makes a specialty of bee raising and has over 100 hives of bees, selling considerable honey in Delphos, Van Wert and Middlepoint. His portrait accompanies this sketch.


EORGE D. JOHNSON, one of the enterprising farmers of Liberty township, living on a farm of 80 acres in section 19, was born in Willshire township, Van Wert County, Ohio, August 11, 1855, and is a son of Elias and Gemina (Dimmett) Johnson.

The father was born in Pennsylvania, and was reared, educated and married in that State, moving to Van Wert County in the early '40's. There he entered a farm of 640 acres, mostly wilderness and much prairie. He first built a round-log house for the family to occupy and then entered upon the task of clearing the timberland. He placed a large part of it under cultivation, under his good management the property being converted into one of the best farms in the township. Elias Johnson's wife died when our subject was about two years of age, and in 1861 he married Elizabeth Leslie, who passed away just four weeks after their union at the age of 51 years.

After the death of his father, George D. Johnson, made his home with his brother Benjamin until he was about nine years of age, when he went to live with his aunt, Mrs. Mary Johnson. In 1876 he was married to Charity Ann Agler, a daughter of Joseph Agler, a

sketch of whom will be found in this work. Mr. and Mrs. George D. Johnson have four children, namely—Birdie, who married Benjamin Dull, lives in Glenmore, Van Wert County, and is the mother of five children; Cary, who married Mollie Miller, also resides in Glenmore, and has one child; and Willis, and Laura, who both live at home.

Mr. Johnson inherited a farm of 119 acres from his father, operating it until 1882, when he sold it and purchased the farm of 80 acres where he now lives. Mr. Johnson is a member of the United Brethren Church, and fraternally is connected with the I. O. O. F.

EORGE LEMUEL SINIFF, a well-known citizen of Liberty township, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits on his farm of 47 acres situated in section 21, and who for a number of years has been an instructor in various schools of this county, is a native of Ohio, having been born November 10, 1862, in Dublin township, Mercer County. He is a son of George L. and Hannah (Anderson) Siniff, and grandson of John Siniff, who was one of the pioneers of Mercer County.

George L. Siniff was reared in that county and received his early education in the common schools of Dublin township, later taking a course at the normal schools of Middlepoint and Ada, Ohio. In 1885 he was united in marriage with Martha Holzer, who is a daughter of Christian Holzer, and their four children are: Ocie, Anna, Raleigh and Dale. Mr. Siniff and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

After his marriage Mr. Siniff remained but one year in Mercer County, in 1886 moving just across the line from that county into

Liberty township, Van Wert County, where he spent the following eight years, subsequently moving to Ohio City, where he was an instructor in the schools for nine years. In 1903 he purchased his present farm of 47 acres, upon which he moved, being both engaged in teaching (at the Dull school) and interested in general farming. The large frame house which the family now occupy was erected in 1903, and many other needed improvements have been made upon the place.

LEWIS W. ROGERS, who owns and cultivates a farm of 95 acres in section 6, Hoaglin township, is a native of Morrow County, Ohio, where he was born December 12, 1853. His parents were Rev. William H. and Mary (Curtis) Rogers.

Rev. William H. Rogers was born in Pennsylvania, but was little more than a boy when he located in Morrow County, in after life being known as a teacher and a local minister of the United Brethren Church. In politics he was a Republican, and loyal to his convictions in that field, as in all others. By his marriage to Mary Curtis, a native of Ohio, he had the following 13 children (11 of whom are living and mostly residents of Morrow County: Eliza J., widow of Abraham Hardman; Moses C.; John H., who resides in Michigan; Abigail, wife of G. W. Squibb, of Scott; Levi; Mary A., wife of G. W. Nightlinger; James F., of Scott; Lewis W.; Daniel S., of Missouri; Deborah, wife of John Christy; Enoch; and Obed and William H., both deceased. Three of these sons were in the Civil War; Moses and John serving during the entire struggle and Obed giving his life to the Union cause. The father died Decem-

ber 28, 1883, leaving the record of a noble, useful life and good name, as a rich heritage.

During his boyhood Lewis W. Rogers attended the public schools and then engaged in farming in Morrow County until 1879, when he came to Van Wert County and three years later bought his present farm. He was married May 6, 1880, to Elizabeth Jenkins, who was born February 6, 1858, in Fayette County, Ohio, which was also the birthplace of her parents, Andrew J. and Melinda (Flax) Jenkins. Her maternal grandfather, John Flax, still resides there and has passed the 94th mile-stone in life's journey. In 1865 Mr. Jenkins came with his family to Van Wert County, for a number of years residing in Pleasant township and later in Union township, where Elizabeth Jenkins and Lewis Rogers were married. Subsequently, they moved to Paulding County, where they still reside, the parents of five children—Roy A., Ray B., May, Mabel and Cleo. Mr. Rogers is a Republican voter, but not a politician. He takes a deep interest in all that pertains to agriculture, and was formerly a member of Prairie Creek Grange, Patrons of Husbandry.

MRS. HARRIET WEAVER, a well-known and highly esteemed resident of Pleasant township, who owns a well cultivated farm of 80 acres, located in section 33, is the widow of the late Charles L. Weaver. She was born in Coschocton County, Ohio, April 18, 1848, and is a daughter of Michael and Margaret (Albert) Horn.

The parents of Mrs. Weaver were both born in Pennsylvania. When she was five years old they removed from Coschocton to Mercer County, Ohio, and there she was reared to young womanhood, obtaining her

education in the district schools. After her first marriage, in 1866, she removed with her husband to Wisconsin, where she lived until his death, when, with her children, she returned to Mercer County, Ohio. After her second marriage, in 1877, she came to Van Wert County, and in 1878 she and her husband settled on the farm which she now owns. It is a valuable, well-cultivated piece of property, and under Mrs. Weaver's excellent management is very productive. She carries on general farming.

On October 11, 1866, our subject was married, first, to George W. Fisher, who was born in Ohio and died in Wisconsin, leaving three children, namely: Euphemia, wife of Cyrus M. Ulrich, a resident of Des Arc, Arkansas; Lewis, of Harrison township; and George M., of Ohio City. On August 17, 1877, she was married, second, to Charles L. Weaver, who died July 9, 1884, leaving three children, namely: Catherine J., wife of H. A. Winkler, of Mercer County; and James L. and John C., of Pleasant township.



HADDEUS STEPHENS GILLILAND, of whom a complete biography would be also a history relating to the leading events of the central part of Van Wert County, during the last 70 years, was born about four miles from Gettysburg, Adams County, Pennsylvania, October 27, 1834. His parents, James Gordon Gilliland and Margaret (Lawson) Gilliland, moved to Van Wert County in July, 1835, before the subject of this biography was a year old. They settled in Ridge township three miles east of Van Wert, on what is now known as the Ridge road. Their nearest neighbors were 15 miles distant, with the exception

of two families that had come a few days previous and had not yet built cabins, but were living in camps covered with bark from the linden or basswood tree (then commonly called "linn") and open in front.

The family, consisting of the parents and three children came from Pennsylvania in a two-horse wagon as far as Bucyrus. There the father traded one of the horses for a yoke of oxen, and soon found that one of them had what was then called the "trembles" (milk sickness) and when over-heated would fall down and shake like a person having the ague.

After reaching his land, the father and his brother Adam cut small logs such as four men could raise and then called upon his two neighbors, named Hill and Mark to help raise the house. Thus he had the first house in Ridge township. It had only one room but made a comfortable home. The glass and sash had been brought from Bucyrus. The roof was of clapboards split out of oak timber and held in place by weight poles—poles laid on so that by their weight they would hold down the clapboards. The door was made of clapboards shaved. The door lock was a latch made of wood that of its own weight dropped into a notch in a piece of wood at the side of the door, and this formed a bolt which in the daytime was worked with a string passed through a hole in the door; to lock the door all you had to do was to go inside and pull in the string. From this originated the saying "you will find the latch string out," which was always true in those times. All comers were welcomed with rare exceptions.

We will let the subject of this sketch tell in his own words some of the incidents of his life:

"I recollect once or twice when the latch string was pulled in—that was when some drunken Indians wanted in. One incident of this nature is particularly fresh in my mem-

cry: My sister next older than I and myself had each taken a tin of bread and milk and gone back of the house to eat our breakfasts. We heard some Indians coming and when they stopped we went around to see them; one had fallen off his pony and the other was trying to get him to his feet. As soon as we saw that they were drunk, we ran for the door but the string had been pulled in and we were locked out, and the drunken Indians were near us. We first went back of the house, but for fear they would come to the back window we went back farther to a brush heap about 10 rods from the house and secreted ourselves where we finished our breakfasts and waited until we heard the Indians leave. They wanted to trade a cake of home-made sugar for their breakfasts, but as father was not at home mother would not let them in. They would take a bite off the sugar to show that it was not poison and then offer it. Had they been sober, they would have gotten their breakfasts free, as Indians were never turned away either day or night if sober. But the sugar would not have been taken in exchange for anything, as this particular lot of sugar was not appetizing.

"An Indian by the name of Half John was a frequent visitor at our house; his hair was so long that it would touch the chair when he sat down. I used to slip up and pull his hair and then run away. He would laugh and say: 'That boy will be worth a thousand dollars to his pap.' He told my mother that she did not cook her venison right. He said that it ought to be cooked just enough so that the blood would run out of each side of the mouth when eating. He was an intelligent talker when none but our family were around; but if strangers were about he would not say a word. John Lake, a relative of Half John, would frequently stay over night at our house; he

would not sleep in a bed but would curl down on the hearth and there sleep all night.

"Father had to go to Piqua to mill and to buy corn to make meal. It took two weeks to make the trip with an ox team. When he arrived there, he wanted to buy flour but there was none for sale; they told him if he would say he had no money they would give him a barrel as there was plenty there that had been sent from Zanesville for those that were not able to buy. He would not take it as a gift but paid a dollar a bushel for corn. He went to Dayton for dishes, dry goods and groceries. One of my uncles went to Sandusky City for salt, and to Findlay for provisions, groceries and dry goods.

"After clearing six or seven acres during the fall and winter, it was planted in corn but at husking time fully one-half of it had been destroyed by the bears and raccoons. Bears would come within a hundred yards of the house and tear down the corn.

"After settlers began to come in larger numbers, a good part of my father's time was taken up helping raise houses and rolling logs. One spring he spent 27 days attending log rollings with the result that he got his corn out late. This showed him that there was a good deal of time wasted in going to the rollings late and starting home early, therefore he told his neighbors that it would not do to keep on in this way, as it was costing too much. From that time on he hired all his own farm work done, and still went to house raisings. I recollect of his going sometimes eight and ten miles to help raise houses and barns in Union, Hoaglin, Pleasant, Liberty, Washington and York townships.

"Our food for a number of years was mostly corn bread and venison, and occasionally bear meat. Hogs were cheaply raised but

the bears would kill many of them; what were left alone by the bears, would fatten in the woods on the mast (acorns and hickory nuts). When there was land enough cleared to spare for wheat, it was sown and such a thing as a failure of crop was not known; but from the time it began to fill until it was in the stack it had to be watched to keep the blackbirds and squirrels from destroying it. The blackbirds would come in flocks of thousands; then the whole family would get out with cans, boards and rattle-traps (some called them horse-fiddles) and make all the noise possible to scare the birds away. If we were successful in driving them to the next farm, we would not be bothered until towards evening. They always went east in the forenoon and west late in the afternoon, to their roosts along Town Creek.

"When I was about eight years old, there were three families—those of Peter Wills, S. S. Brown and my father's—in the neighborhood, with eight or ten children whose parents built a log schoolhouse which was 16 feet square, all built of basswood logs, with puncheon floor and seats of the same wood, with a clapboard roof and ceiling. The window on the west was about eight feet long and ten inches high, made by cutting out a part of two of the logs forming the wall on that side; the one on the north was about three feet long and ten inches high: neither had any sash. The building stood nearly opposite where is now the house of Hugh Evans, who lives on the old Gilliland homestead farm. Our first teacher was Clarissa Gleason, an aunt of Julius A., Andrew J., Abram B. and Francis J. Gleason. We had three months of school every two years by the parents of the pupils paying a part of the teacher's salary out of their own pockets. Our next teacher was Louisa Spear, who afterward married R. C. Spear, whose

son is a well-known newspaper correspondent and traveler, John R. Spear, of New York City.

"When I was 12 years of age, during the winter that we did not have any school at home. I went to school in the district east of where the County Infirmary stands, walking the three miles morning and evening, and missed only one day during the entire winter, and that day it was so stormy that there were only two pupils at school. The three miles were through the woods where bears, deer, wolves and other wild animals made their homes. Only one family—that of J. M. Young—lived on this road within the three miles. During the entire winter I was not tardy once, and as school was out at four o'clock it was after dark before I was half way home. It was a custom at that time to 'spell down' the last thing each day; I stood at the head of my spelling class most of the evenings, although there were half a dozen pupils several years older than I.

"Later on, when more families had moved into the district, we had three months of school each year. Many of our teachers had never seen the inside of a grammar or had gone as far as the single rule of three in Smith's or Adam's arithmetics, which were then the textbooks."

In 1853 Mr. Gilliland entered Farmer's College at College Hill, now a part of Cincinnati, where he studied one year, but met with an accident shortly before the opening of the next college year which resulted in a severe illness from which he did not fully recover for several years. He did not return to college again, much to his regret.

He taught school for two winters and was engaged two years in a dry goods trade at Elida, Allen County, after which he returned to the farm.

In the fall of 1857 he was married to Ruhamah Baker, daughter of Jacob S. and Mary (East) Baker, of Allen County.

In 1858 he commenced teaching school in Van Wert and did not give up school work until President Lincoln's first call for 75,000 men, when he entered the service of his country, enlisting in Company E, 15th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., being chosen orderly sergeant. The regiment was sent to Virginia and guarded the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad for a time. Then his company with two others was detached from the regiment and sent to Philippi, where they had their first engagement on June 3, 1861; again at Laurel Hill, on July 8th; and at Carrick's Ford on July 14th of the same year. At the last named battle, he had command of this company, although only a non-commissioned officer.

After the expiration of the term of service, he was mustered out with his company on August 27, 1861.

On the 7th of September of 1861 he re-enlisted for three years in Company H, 15th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and was chosen captain. They were immediately ordered to Camp Mordecai Bartley at Mansfield, Ohio, for the purpose of drilling, and later were transferred to Camp Dennison, where they received their arms and other equipments. They were then sent to Lexington, Kentucky, and from there to Camp Nevins near Nolin Station on the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. There they remained in camp during the winter of 1861-62. While at Camp Nevins, he was taken ill with typhoid fever and the eight succeeding weeks are a complete blank to him; during this time his father and his wife brought him home—the latter had been obliged to secrete herself under the ear seats in order to pass through the lines, as an order had been issued that no woman was to be allowed to travel to the front.

He remained ill for three months after returning home. Being very anxious to return to the front, he overdid himself and suffered a relapse, which detained him longer. He returned to his regiment in March, 1862, but was too weak to march, so was placed in charge of the wagon train, consisting of 80 wagons. When they reached Nashville, Tennessee, he joined the regiment and on the first day's march they were obliged to wade Chartier's Creek. After they had marched until quite warm, they went into camp at Columbia, Tennessee, where he was taken down with a severe case of catarrhal jaundice, which in his weak condition still further reduced him. When ordered forward to Savannah, Tennessee, he was not able to march but was hauled in the ambulance until Sunday morning, April 6, 1862, when the battle of Shiloh began. The regiment was then 30 miles from Savannah. They hastened forward, one of his men carrying his sword and another his blanket; thus aided he marched those 30 miles from sunrise until 11 o'clock that night. The next morning they entered the fight and were engaged until 4 in afternoon. He says that he never felt better in his life than during the excitement of the battle but after the battle ceased he collapsed. As they did not receive their tents for 10 days and it rained every night and often during the day, he was soon in a condition far worse than ever. He remained, hoping for some improvement but in vain, until the first of May, when he resigned and returned home, where he continued in poor health for six or eight years. Though thus handicapped, he could not remain idle and on September 14, 1863, he was commissioned by Governor David Tod, colonel of the First Regiment of Ohio Militia for Van Wert County. On September 22nd of the same year he was appointed by Gen. Charles W. Hill, colonel of the Fourth Regiment of the

Third Brigade, at Camp Lucas, Toledo, Ohio. This regiment was composed of commissioned and non-commissioned officers from all parts of the State, assembled there to drill. Mr. Gilliland's experiences at the front and the fact that he was recognized as an unusually good drill-master and well up in tactics made him especially suitable for the position of colonel.


After peace was declared, he settled down to peaceable pursuits, converting the sword into a plow-share, but owing to the poor condition of his health, brought on by the exposures mentioned above, he was forced to give up farming and moved into Van Wert where he engaged in the handling of grain and seeds, and later on added the produce business. For many years he carried on an extensive business in those lines. In 1893 he disposed of the produce business, and devoted himself to the grain, seeds and hay business and soon added coal. In July, 1905, after over 39 years in active business, he sold all his business, including the grain elevator which he had run for many years and which had replaced the one destroyed by fire in 1891. His intention was to retire from active pursuits and enjoy the rest and peace earned by so many years of activity.

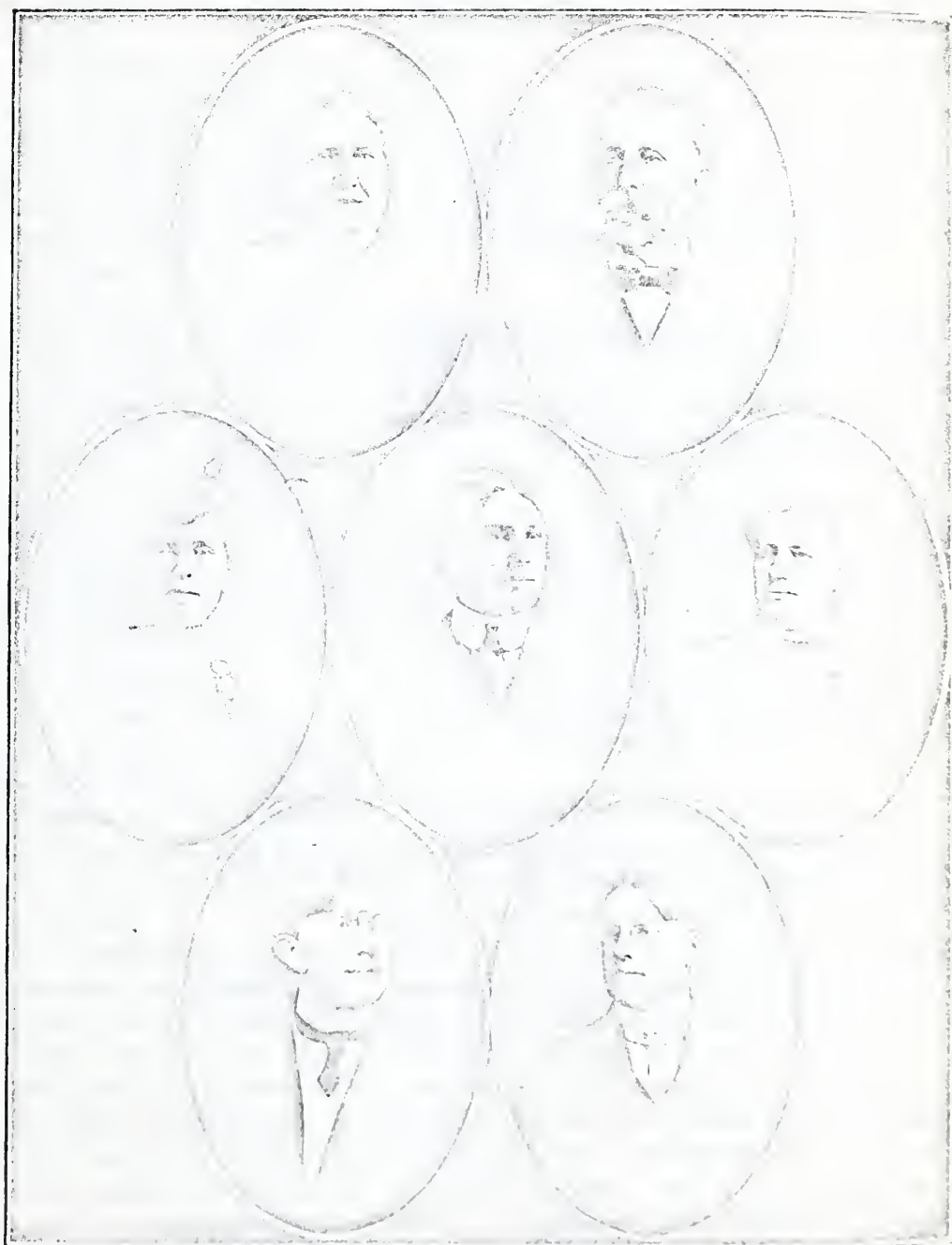
Besides the business relations, he did not neglect his duty to his neighbors. He was elected by them to the office of mayor, and after one term was reelected, serving in all four years. While mayor, he suggested and formulated the plans for converting the old "Commons," which till then had been used as a place for hitching teams, into parks and in his official capacity as mayor appointed the first park commissioners and took the first steps towards protecting the magnificent elms, now the pride of the parks, from destruction. The parks were fenced in, trees planted and the beginning made of the parks of which Van Wert

can well be proud. To him the city must give the credit for the creation of the park system.

The first street improvements were commenced during his term of office, when Main street was macadamized. The first sewer, the Jackson street sewer, was also constructed while he was mayor. Van Wert made her first active step forward to the position of an up-to-date city at this time, when a number of brick business houses were built, also the Court House.

He was a member of the Board of Health for a number of years and at the present time is a member of the Board of Public Service. Mr. Gilliland has always been very active in all measures for the improvement of the city. He is a member of the First Presbyterian Church, of which he has been an elder for over 40 years. He is a Mason, and a charter member of W. C. Scott Post, No. 100, G. A. R.

ARRISON LEATHERS, deceased, formerly one of the leading men and highly esteemed citizens of Ridge township, and for many years closely identified with the township's various interests, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, October 30, 1834. His death occurred June 5, 1902, at his home in this county. He was a son of Christian and Catherine (Shoup) Leathers, his parents being among the hardy pioneers who first brought civilization to the wilderness embraced by Van Wert County of the present day. Although Harrison Leathers had but meager educational opportunities, he was endowed with an active and receptive mind, advancing therefore more rapidly than his companions of the pioneer schools and becoming a teacher of others. He grew to manhood as a practical farmer, fully capable of conduct-



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE COVER AND FAMILY


ing large agricultural operations even when little labor saving machinery had been invented or been put in use.

On April 15, 1858, Harrison Leathers was united in marriage with Martena A. Cummings, who was born October 4, 1836, in Guernsey County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Emanuel and Mary (Redman) Cummings, her father being a native of what is now West Virginia, and her mother of Ohio. Mrs. Leathers was four years old when her parents moved to Van Wert County and settled in Liberty township, where they lived until she reached her 21st year, when they located in Ridge township. The children born to Harrison Leathers and wife were: Edmond A., William C. and Delora V. (Mrs. William C. Gilliland), all of Ridge township; and Florence E. B., wife of John G. Prill, of Paulding County, Ohio. All the children are honorable and respected members of society, and a credit to their parents and to themselves.

Mr. Leathers was a soldier of the Civil War, on August 12, 1862, becoming a member of Company A, 99th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and seeing much hard service until his honorable discharge in July, 1865, at which time he had devoted himself to the Union cause for a period of nearly three years.

The late Harrison Leathers was a man of sterling traits of character, his absolute reliability being recognized on many occasions when his fellow-citizens made him their choice for local offices. He served, with honest efficiency, as clerk of Ridge township and as assessor, and for years creditably filled some position on the School board. Politically he was a Republican, and is remembered generally as one of the township's representative men—one whose standard of citizenship was high, and who invariably conformed to it himself. The deceased was a man of excellent

business perceptions, accumulated a comfortable competency and was numbered with the township's most substantial farmers. For a number of years Mr. Leathers had been an interested and active member of the Odd Fellows fraternity, and his burial was conducted according to the ritual of the order. For many years he was an elder in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the General Synod.

EORGE COVER, residing on his well-improved farm of 147 acres, located in section 30, Washington township, is one of the prominent and progressive farmers of Van Wert County. Born in Perry County, Ohio, February 11, 1845, he is the oldest son of Henry and Mary Magdalene (Foster) Cover, who originally came from Pennsylvania. The Cover family is of German extraction, the great-grandfather of George C., who was born in Germany being the first of the Cover family to come to America, his first location being in Pennsylvania.

Henry Cover, the father, was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, and when only a few years old accompanied his parents to Perry County, Ohio, where he was reared and educated. He moved to Van Wert County September 17, 1848, settled on a farm of 160 acres in section 24, Ridge township, and married Mary Magdalene Foster, daughter of George Foster, who was also a native of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cover became the parents of four children, two of whom are still living—George, of this sketch and Frances Marion. Christina (Mrs. Samuel Walser) died May 27, 1903, and William Henry, in infancy. The father of the family passed away December 16, 1903, his wife having died September 26, 1885.

George Cover was three years old at the time of his father's removal to Van Wert County, and here he was reared and received a common-school education. He was married December 27, 1868, to Elizabeth Crooks, a daughter of Robert and Mary Ann (Foster) Crooks, and they have been the parents of six children—five living and one deceased. Mary Elizabeth, the wife of Ora Mohler of Ridge township, is the mother of five children—Harold, Ilo Abertus, Marie, Frances Ruth, and Chleo Ninetta. Henry E., the second born, died in infancy. Lawrence A., the third child, was reared and educated in the district schools, later studied music at Ada, Ohio, and is now a leading tenor with the Sho-Gun Opera Company. His first season was with John W. Vogel's minstrel company, in 1902. The following season he was with the Ada Rehan-Otis Skinner company, and, for a time, was also connected with the Parsifal Company. Marion F., the fourth child of Mr. and Mrs. George Cover, was educated at the Lima (Ohio) Business College, and is now book-keeper for the Pennsylvania Railroad at Baltic, Ohio. He married Agnes Burkey, of Tuscarawas County, and has one child—Dorothy Marjorie. George Luther, unmarried, lives at home with his parents. Nettie La Verne, the sixth child, married G. C. Heist, of Washington township, and is the mother of one child—Virgil Marcile.

In 1878 Mr. Cover erected his present fine large frame house and is now preparing to build a new barn. For many years he was a breeder of Polled Aberdeen-Angus cattle, and a raiser of fine sheep, having won many premiums at the county fairs. Mr. Cover is one of the directors of the Allen County Fire Insurance Company, serving now his sixth year, and is also a director of the Home Telephone Company of Middlepoint. In his religious connections he is a member and a deacon of the

Lutheran Church at Middlepoint. A picture of the Cover family accompanies this sketch, being presented on a foregoing page.

ALBERT E. FOUST, for upward of half a century a resident of Hoaglin township, was born June 11, 1835, in that portion of Marion County, Ohio, which has since been designated as Morrow County. He is a son of Job and Sarah (Hardman) Foust, who died in this county many years ago. Job Foust was born in Marion County and was a son of Jacob Foust, who came there at a very early day from Pennsylvania. The former was married to Sarah Hardman, who was a Virginian by birth and remained in Marion County until 1856, when he located in Hoaglin township. Three children survive them, namely: Albert E.; Lucy, wife of Milton Hemlinger, of Defiance County, Ohio; and Chauncey M., of Indiana.

Albert E. Foust has been an agriculturist most of his life, but for about 12 years was employed as timber purchaser by the Oil Well Supply Company of Van Wert. His education was derived from both the subscription and the public schools and upon the foundation thus laid has been built a superstructure of information obtained from observation and experience, giving him a varied and useful fund of available knowledge which marks the well-read man. In 1864 Mr. Foust enlisted in Company G, 47th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., and, while he was in service only about one year, he was under fire the greater part of the time and experienced all the vicissitudes and excitement of army life. He assisted in the taking of Fort McAllister, was at Bentonville, saw the capture and burning of Columbia, South Carolina, and accompanied Sherman's

army on its "March to the Sea," receiving an honorable discharge in June, 1865.

Albert E. Foust has been twice married: In 1857 to Elizabeth Beamer, who died in 1886, leaving four children, viz: Loren A., of Indiana; Perry C., of Paulding County; George A., of Hoaglin township; and Shannon L., of Fostoria. His present wife was Mrs. Louisa (Shoemaker) Shreckengast, widow of Abraham Shreckengast and a daughter of Samuel H. Shoemaker, who was a native of Pennsylvania and a pioneer of Fairfield County. By her first union Mrs. Foust had five children of whom three are living, viz: Samuel H., of Scott; Charles W., of Hoaglin township; and Martha E., wife of Leroy Foust, of Morrow County. Mr. Foust is a Democrat and is now serving his third term as trustee of Hoaglin township, being, in all walks of life, an honorable, upright gentleman, who commands general and deep respect.

EDMOND A. LEATHERS, one of the prominent and representative farmers and stockraisers of Ridge township, whose well-improved farm of 120 acres is situated in section 34, was born in Ridge township, on February 26, 1859, and is a son of Harrison and Martena A. (Cummings) Leathers. The father was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, October 30, 1834, and was a son of Christian Leathers, who was of German extraction but a native of Maryland. The parents came to Ohio at an early day, and in Harrison's boyhood settled in Ridge township, Van Wert County. The latter spent the remainder of his life in the township named, where he died June 5, 1902. He was a prominent and valued citizen, and served efficiently

in a number of the local offices, at various times being assessor and township clerk. During the greater part of his life he was an elder in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the General Synod. He was a valued member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and his burial was conducted according to the ritual of the order. His widow still resides in Ridge township. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Leathers were: Edmond A., of this sketch; William C. and Delora V. (Mrs. William C. Gilliland) both of Ridge township; and Florence E., wife of John G. Prill, of Payne, Paulding County, Ohio.

Edmond A. Leathers was reared in Ridge township and was educated in both its public and private schools as well as at Van Wert. After completing his education, he taught for four consecutive years in Willshire and Liberty townships, and after his marriage settled on his present valuable farm on which he has erected one of the most attractive modern residences in the township. The land owned by the estate of the late Harrison Leathers has become doubly valuable on account of the great development of oil upon it. In 1901 there was drilled on the farm mentioned, which is situated in section 34, Ridge township, an oil-well which, for 33 consecutive days, flowed 250 barrels of oil per day, without being pumped. Later pumping machinery was installed and oil was produced in large, paying quantities.

On June 3, 1883, Mr. Leathers was married to Mary J. Bell, who was born in Ashland County, Ohio, and is a daughter of James and Charlotte (Reame) Bell. Seven children have been born to this marriage, namely: James H., Arthur M., Urban C., Clara B., Earl E., Beulah B. and Luther E.

Politically Mr. Leathers is usually in accord with the Republican party. He has served

several terms as assessor of Ridge township and as land appraiser, his knowledge in this direction being very considerable. Fraternally he belongs to Van Wert Lodge, No. 251, I. O. O. F., which he joined in 1880; the Knights of Pythias, at Middlepoint, and the Modern Woodmen, at Van Wert. Since his youth he has been a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, is an elder in the Ridge township church, is serving as secretary of the joint council of the Salem charge, and is also a church trustee. In short, he is a man in whom his neighbors have placed implicit confidence for many years—one of the township's most intelligent and representative men, in every relation of life.

THOMAS K. ROWLEY. Few residents of Van Wert County enjoy a more extended acquaintance, or stand higher among their fellowmen, than Thomas K. Rowley, who has resided in Hoaglin township for more than 50 years and is one of the leading agriculturists of the locality. He was born in Carroll County, Ohio, February 17, 1844, and is a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Bird) Rowley, both natives of England, his mother coming to America in 1822. When Thomas was an infant of about six months, his father died and Mrs. Rowley was again married, her second husband being Andrew Wisener. In the fall of 1851 Mr. Wisener brought his family to Van Wert County and located in Hoaglin township. He entered the Civil war from which he never returned, dying at Nashville, Tennessee, but the mother continued to reside in Hoaglin township until 1892, when she passed to the beyond. Four children survive her, Thomas K. Rowley being the only one by the first

marriage; the others are Lorenzo D. Wisener, Hannah C. (wife of Benjamin Gesey) and John, all of Hoaglin township.

Thomas K. Rowley was educated and reached manhood in the district in which he still lives, in the fall of 1859 moving to his present homestead where he has since resided. He is a practical farmer, the owner of 130 acres of land (all under cultivation), and is also a shrewd business man.

Thomas K. Rowley was married November 18, 1896, to Mrs. Mary A. Yoh, widow of the late Jacob Yoh, of Hoaglin township, her father being Christian Mohr, deceased, a prominent farmer of Hoaglin township. She is the mother of four children by her first union, viz: Arthur who, since his wife's death, resides with Mr. and Mrs. Rowley; Roma A.; Irvin S.; and Sarah E., wife of Charles Rogers, all of Hoaglin township. Mr. Rowley was trustee of the township one year, and is now serving on the pike commission. He is a Republican and always ready to work for the good of his community and the public in general. He is a member of the Evangelical Association, being a trustee of Grand Victory Church, of Hoaglin township.

FRANK KING, owner and operator of a fine farm of 40 acres in section 16, Liberty township, was born in Black Creek township, Mercer County, Ohio, October 11, 1865, and is a son of Amasa and Catherine (Mihm) King. The father was a native of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio, and there was reared and educated, later being there engaged in farming upon a tract of 100 acres. He died in March, 1869, when his son Frank was but four years of age and who has therefore but very little recollection of him.

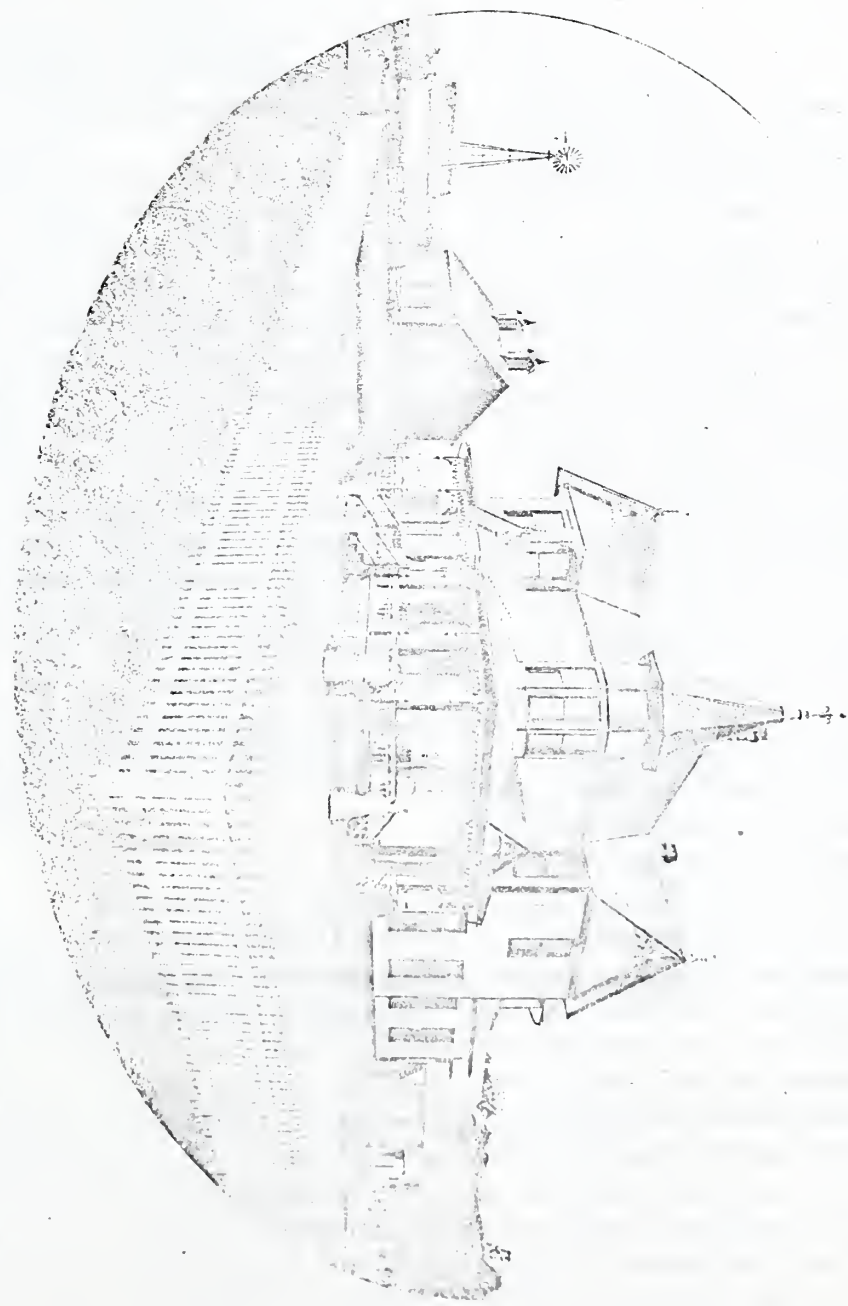


MRS. REBECCA G. VICKROY



MRS. REBECCA G. VICKROY

RESIDENCE OF ORIN G. VICKROY



The widow is still living, being a resident of Mercer County. Mr. and Mrs. Amasa King had six children, as follows: Emma, who died in early childhood; Taylor, who lives in Rockford, Mercer County; Laura Ellen, widow of Benjamin Hartzog, who also resides in Mercer County; Louis, who is married and lives in Lima; and Frank.

Frank King was reared in both Mercer and Van Wert counties, the family homestead being located on the county line. He was married December 25, 1886, to Minnie Putman, a daughter of Peter and Sarah (Neiferd) Putman, old settlers of Liberty township, Van Wert County. Mr. and Mrs. Frank King have had four children—Leona, who died aged one year; Willis; Earl and Aubrey. After his marriage Mr. King lived first in Liberty township, about four miles south of his present home. In March, 1899, he moved to his present location, having bought the farm during the previous fall. There are three producing oil wells on the farm, which is one of the best improved places in the township. Mr. King is a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, of Ohio City.

ORIN G. VICKROY, a prosperous farmer and stock-raiser of Union township, although not beyond middle life, is the pioneer of this section of Van Wert County. He was born in Richland County, Ohio, April 3, 1854, and is a son of Emanuel and Matilda (Hardman) Vickroy, and grandson of John Vickroy, whose family settled in Pennsylvania at an early date.

Emanuel Vickroy, the father, was born in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, July 11, 1824, and farmed there until his removal to Ohio on November 4, 1853. He purchased and farmed a small place in Richland County, then aban-

doned agriculture, and for a time was engaged in merchandising at Belleville, that county. At the end of three years he resumed farming and continued thus until 1873, when he engaged in huckstering until 1884. Emanuel Vickroy was married August 14, 1848, to Matilda Hardman, a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Hardman, both of German descent. This union resulted in the following offspring: Remina, wife of Henry Schwartz; Martha; Orin G.; Jacob; Mary E., deceased, who was the wife of E. R. Kelly; Sarah; John H. and Alice, wife of Cassius Huntsman. The mother of these children was born in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, September 10, 1831, and on November 4, 1853, accompanied her parents to Richland County, Ohio, where she died on the 25th of December, 1863. The deceased was a member of the Disciples' Church and a woman of most estimable character.

Orin G. Vickroy attended the common schools of Richland and Morrow counties and through his father early learned the dignity of labor. After assisting, during his early years, on the home farm, he worked out as a farm hand, a little later buying territory in which to sell patent wire fence. But he lost faith in the article of which he was the agent, being unable to conscientiously say it was the best fence the farmer could buy, and as a result abandoned the venture and thereby lost several hundred dollars. In 1876 Mr. Vickroy went to Wyandot County, where for one year he worked as a farm laborer. He then rented several places, which he farmed until he came to Union township in November, 1884. In June of that year he had visited the county, crossing his present place (then under water), in gum boots. He made an examination of the land; saw how it lay from a report made by a competent surveyor, and decided that it could be underdrained to advantage. As a result he pur-

chased 80 acres, knowing the land to be a good investment if he never moved upon it. In the fall of the same year, as stated, he returned to Van Wert County to reside permanently, and has since converted a portion of the swamp into a well-drained farm, which he has cleared of its timber and placed in a good state of cultivation. Redeeming waste land was a most difficult task, but, when success crowned his efforts, his example was followed by many others. The trials and hardships of those early days were certainly many, and it was often a difficult matter to keep the wolf from the door; but Mr. Vickroy persistently cleared and tilled the original purchase of 80 acres, and gradually added to it until he owned 235 acres, all of which he himself drained, cleared and otherwise improved. It is perhaps needless to say that he is a man of energy and enterprise, and has been unqualifiedly successful. His standing in the community was shown by his election as justice of the peace, on the Democratic ticket, without the opposing party placing a man in nomination; but he has steadfastly refused to run for offices of importance.

March 18, 1880, Orin G. Vickroy married Rebecca Gongwer, who was born in Ashland County, Ohio, June 21, 1859, and is a daughter of Philip and Saloma (Long) Gongwer, her father a native of Pennsylvania. They have no children, except by adoption—a boy, James G., being taken by them from the Wayndot County Infirmary and now bears the name Vickroy. The young man is now serving in the United States Marine Corps, being stationed in the Philippines. In 1901 Mr. Vickroy erected a beautiful home on his farm, the residence containing 11 large rooms, with many closets, and is arranged most attractively and conveniently. It is finished in quarter-sawed oak and finely furnished throughout, being an ideal country home, from which a commanding

view of the surrounding country may be enjoyed. A view of Mr. Vickroy's home and portraits of himself and wife accompany this sketch.




HENRY BUSCH, one of the highly esteemed residents of Delphos, was born in Hanover, Germany, in March, 1842, and is a son of Harmon Henry and Mary Busch. The father, with his family, emigrated to America when Henry was two years of age, locating for a few months in Cincinnati, Ohio. He then moved to Washington township, Van Wert County, where he purchased 80 acres of land at \$1.25 an acre, the tract—mostly swamp and timberland—having since been cleared and highly cultivated and brought to a valuation of \$100 per acre. Harmon H. Busch died July 17, 1874, his wife surviving him until 1895.

Henry Busch was reared on his father's farm, and endured many hardships while assisting in its clearing, cultivation and general improvement, in the midst of which he received his educational training in the schools of Washington township. He was married November 19, 1872, to Barbara Auer, daughter of Joseph and Barbara Auer, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Busch have had six children, five of whom are still living. The record is as follows: Joseph, born December 27, 1874, who resides in Brookville, Indiana; Charles, born November 4, 1877, who married Anna Wilcox, of Delphos, and is connected with the Gempke Brothers & Busch Hardware Company, of Delphos; Josephine, born January 28, 1882, who died at the age of six months; Ida, born July 28, 1885, who lives at home; George, born July 22, 1887, who resides in Cincin-

cinnati; and Edward, born March 27, 1893, who lives in Brookville, Indiana. Mr. Busch and family are all members of St. John's Catholic Church, of Delphos.

Mr. Busch owns a fine farm of 110 acres in Washington township, which he operated until December 6, 1889, when he rented the farm and removed to Brookville, Indiana, becoming the proprietor of the St. Charles Hotel, which he managed successfully for 15 years. In 1904 he sold that property and returned to Delphos, where he owns a fine residence located on East Third street. At one time he was the proprietor of 190 acres of farm land, but has sold 80 acres. He also bought the building where the Gempke Brothers & Busch Hardware Company's store is situated, and started his son Charles in business. Mr. Busch was for many years supervisor and school director of Washington township, and is a citizen of high and substantial standing.

RANKLIN GOOD, a reputable and influential agriculturist of Van Wert County, living in section 31, Ridge township, on a farm of 75 acres, was born May 17, 1852, in this county, his parents being George W. and Martha (Miller) Good. The father was born in Pennsylvania and was about 10 years of age when his parents removed to Richland County, Ohio, and later to Pleasant township, Van Wert County, where they died. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and a man who earnestly endeavored to square his life with his convictions. During his later years he was a strong Prohibitionist. His death occurred January 7, 1898, after a long and well-spent life. Martha Miller Good, the mother, was

a daughter of William Miller, who came to what is now Pleasant township, Van Wert County, at such an early day that few white settlers had found their way thither. He took up his residence in an Indian cabin, in which he lived for several years and in which his daughter, Mary A., was born. At one time his nearest white neighbor lived 10 miles away. The first female white child born in the township was Mrs. Mary A. (Miller) Bronson, born in 1836, who is the widow of the late Aaron Bronson—a prominent farmer and at one time county commissioner. Six children are left to survive George W. Good and his wife, namely: Franklin; William; Elizabeth E., wife of Peter Collins; Calvin, of York township; Victor H.; and Delilah J., wife of Rev. F. L. Hook, a Methodist minister now stationed at Waterville, Ohio. All are residents of Ridge township, except Calvin and Mrs. Hook.

Franklin Good was married November 25, 1874, to Martha J. Clippinger, a native of Allen County and a daughter of Samuel A. and Joanna (Valentine) Clippinger. Mr. Clippinger was born in Pennsylvania, and at an early day moved to Lima, Ohio, there being then but eight log cabins in the village. He remained a resident of Allen County until soon after the Civil War, when he located in York township, Van Wert County, where both he and his wife died. Two sons have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Good, viz.: Barton L., a rising young physician, of Wilmington, Illinois; and Merrill M., who is living at home. The parents are adherents to the Methodist Episcopal faith and take an active part in both church and Sabbath-school work. Mr. Good believes in using his utmost influence for the righteous cause, and is a firm supporter of the principles of prohibition.

ANDREW J. STEWART, formerly one of the trustees of Jackson township, and a prominent agriculturist, resides in section 19 on a home farm of 80 acres, and also owns 80 acres in Washington township. He was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, March 23, 1838, and is a son of Zachariah and Catherine (Deener) Stewart. The father of Mr. Stewart was born in Ohio, and his mother in Maryland. About 1848 the family moved from Fairfield County to Washington township, Van Wert County, where they were esteemed pioneers and passed their last years.

Andrew J. Stewart was reared in Washington township and there attended the district schools, in the meantime, under his father's instructions, learning to be a practical farmer. In the fall of 1869 he settled on his present farm in Jackson township, which at the time was thickly covered with woods and brush. Through his industry and persistent work he has since transformed the virgin land into a fine, productive farm.

Andrew J. Stewart is an honored survivor of the Civil War. In September, 1861, he enlisted in Company H, 15th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland. He participated in the battles of Shiloh, Stone River, Chickamauga, Buzzard's Roost, the siege of Atlanta, the battles of Franklin and Nashville, and in innumerable smaller engagements, being honorably discharged from the service in 1866. Although always at the post of duty, fortunately he escaped the dangers of the fever camp and the battle field.

After his war service was over, Mr. Stewart returned to Van Wert County, where he has resided ever since. His children are: Elsen, of Washington township; Stephen, of Jackson township; Nevada, wife of Emmet

Neese, of Michigan; Eli, of Jackson township, and Della, Mrs. Elmer Myers, of Houghman township. Politically Mr. Stewart is a Democrat. He served in a number of county and township offices entirely to the satisfaction of his fellow citizens. For six years he was one of the Infirmary directors of Van Wert County, has been township treasurer and for three years was township trustee, during this period being president of the board. All in all, he is one of the best known and valued citizens of this locality.

ISAAC R. TUDOR, of Van Wert, has been a prominent figure in the history of Van Wert County for many years past, and his retirement to private life as a member of the hardware firm of Jones & Tudor Co. did not permit him to entirely withdraw from the public service. Mr. Tudor was born in 1850 at a place in Butler County, Ohio, which was known as Paddy's Run, and is a son of Richard and Elizabeth (Owens) Tudor. Both parents were natives of Montgomeryshire, North Wales, and came to this country about the year 1842, settling for a short time at Ebensburg, Pennsylvania. From there they went to Long Creek, Iowa, near Iowa City, but soon returned East and located in Butler County, Ohio, where they remained about five years. They moved from there to Allen County, Ohio, where the father was accidentally killed by falling off a load of hay at the age of 55 years, and the mother died at the age of 67. There were nine children in their family, five of whom died in infancy; the subject of our sketch is now the only survivor. William and David gave their lives in defense of the "Stars and Stripes," the former meeting death by starvation in Andersonville




RESIDENCE AND FARM BUILDINGS OF NELSON F. SHAW

Prison. Owen has also passed into the Great Unknown.

Isaac R. Tudor was reared on a farm, and continued to do farm work until 1873 when he went to Delphos, Ohio, and secured a clerkship. This employment being much more to his taste, he continued to act as clerk for various parties for 12 years. In the meantime his acquaintance and popularity increased and his well-known executive ability caused his friends to urge his candidacy for sheriff of Van Wert County, to which office he was elected in the fall of 1885. He moved to Van Wert on the first of the following year and took up the duties of the office, discharging them in such a manner that he was elected for a second term when the rest of the ticket went down in defeat. A partnership in the hardware business was arranged with W. B. Jones and the store of Jones & Tudor was opened in 1891 and has been conducted with the energy shown by Mr. Tudor in all his undertakings. It is safe to say that few enterprises in the city have had a more substantial growth. In 1896, when William McKinley was first elected President Mr. Tudor was one of the presidential electors, and had the honor of carrying the Ohio electoral vote to Washington. Although he still takes a lively interest in the success of the Republican party, he is devoting his attention entirely to the hardware business.


Mr. Tudor was married in 1876 to Elizabeth Peat, who was one of a family of five children, born in Llanbryn-mair, Montgomeryshire, North Wales, where she lived until the death of her parents, when she came to this country, a young girl. Their only child, Bessie Tudor, who is now in New York City, is a musician of rare ability, having studied with the best teachers in this and foreign countries. She bids fair to become one of the leading concert singers of America. She is gifted

with a refined musical temperament and possesses a rich soprano voice of great compass; so full of sympathy that she never fails to captivate her audience. The family are members of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Tudor is also prominent in Masonic circles, being a 32nd degree Mason.

 NELSON F. SHAW. One of the best improved and most productive farms in the northern part of Van Wert County, is situated in section 34, Hoaglin township, and comprises the 170 acres owned by Nelson F. Shaw, who is widely and favorably known throughout this locality. He was born in Morrow County, Ohio, October 3, 1859, and is a son of Francis M. and Nancy (Dunkelbarger) Shaw. The father, now deceased, was also a native of Morrow County, but moved to Van Wert County some time in the '70's and died here many years ago. He was a Republican, a man of strong character and a friend to everyone, who was an acquaintance. He married Nancy Dunkelbarger, who was a native of Marion County and was born in 1837. Mrs. Francis M. Shaw is now a resident of Hoaglin township. Seven children now survive, viz.: Nelson F.; Lydia M. (Mrs. Joseph Hoaglin), of Van Wert; Jacob R.; Grant, of Paulding County; and Isaac V. W.; Florence V. (Mrs. Delmar Roby) and Harry, of Hoaglin township.

Nelson F. Shaw attended district school in Hoaglin township, and then turned his attention to the subject of agriculture, an occupation in which he has been very successful. On November 8, 1885, he was married to Clara A. Ferguson, who was born November 22, 1866, in Champaign County, Ohio, and is a

daughter of Enos M. and Arminda V. (Jett) Ferguson. Both her parents were natives of that county, but in 1868 moved to Columbia City, Indiana, which was their home for many years. There the mother passed away when Mrs. Shaw was a child of 12 years, the father surviving her until March 23, 1896, when he died at Fort Wayne, Indiana. On September 16, 1861, Enos M. Ferguson enlisted at Mechanicsburg, Ohio, serving under Captain Stou until the close of the Civil war. Mrs. Shaw came to Van Wert County early in 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw have one child, Estella M., who was born March 28, 1901. They count their friends by the legion and are among the most popular families in their locality. While not a member of any church, they are willing contributors to the cause of religion, and may safely be relied upon to lend a helping hand where aid is required for any worthy object. Views of the Shaw home and the farm buildings accompany this sketch.

 LOREN P. LEWIS, one of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of Van Wert County, has owned and operated a farm of 40 acres in section 6, Hoaglin township, for almost a quarter of a century, during which time he has been constantly adding to his long list of friends, the number being limited only by the extent of his acquaintance. He was born November 18, 1827, in Hocking County, Ohio, and is a son of Isaac and Emily (Morse) Lewis, both of whom were natives of Connecticut. That State was also the birthplace of Philo Lewis, who was the paternal grandfather of our subject. When a young man, Isaac Lewis, the father, settled in Hocking County, Ohio, where he died in 1862. Five children survive him,

viz.: Sarah A., wife of John Tomlinson, of Hocking County; Horace M., a resident of Union township, Van Wert County; Abner M., who lives in Hocking County; Legrand B., a resident of Oklahoma; and Loren P.

The schoolhouse attended by Mr. Lewis was the primitive log building, with slab seats and puncheon floor, presided over by a master who instructed them in the "Three R's." During his earlier years he engaged in carpentry, but soon turned his entire attention to farming, which has since been his vocation. In February, 1865, he enlisted in Company K, 194th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., at first performing picket duty in the Shenandoah Valley, but later sent to the hospital at Grafton, West Virginia, as a victim of pneumonia. There he remained three months, when he was honorably discharged from the service. Mr. Lewis moved to his present farm in 1883, and has occupied an honorable and useful place in this community. He is a Democrat in politics, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Scott.

Loren P. Lewis was married, on November 3, 1853, to Sarah L. Sudlow, who was born in Hocking County, December 14, 1835, and is a daughter of Joseph and Hannah (Clapp) Sudlow. Her father was a native of Connecticut and her mother, of Dutchess County, New York. They were among the first white settlers of Hocking County, Ohio, making their home in a log cabin in the woods of what was afterward Starr township, at a period when bears and wolves were no uncommon sight in the little clearing which constituted their dooryard. Mrs. Lewis has a brother and sister still living—Elizabeth, widow of Oren Buckingham, of Hocking County, and Samuel T. Sudlow, of Indiana. To Mr. and Mrs. Lewis three children have been born, namely: Claretta, deceased; Hattie,

tie L., wife of Frederick Mohr; and Lucy M., deceased, who was the wife of Albert L. Booher, who resides in Huron County, Ohio, two of whose children—Bertha J. and Glenn L. Booher—live with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Loren P. Lewis, while the third, a daughter, Ilo E. Booher, resides in Scott with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Brian.

PETER KESLER, a former trustee of Jackson township, who is now a resident of Middlepoint, has been a prominent citizen of this section for many years. He was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, August 8, 1840, and is a son of Abraham and Mary (Shupe) Kesler. The parents of Mr. Kesler were natives of Pennsylvania. They resided in Fairfield County, Ohio, at the time of his birth, but removed to Allen County when he was about six months old. They were early settlers of German township, that county, where Peter was reared by his father, his mother dying when he was 10 years old.

Peter Kesler was educated in the public schools of German township, Allen County, and when ready to enter business located at Wetsel, where he was the first general merchant in the village. Soon, however, he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, and has since followed farming and stockraising with great success. He owns a fine property of 159 acres, at Wetsel, known as the "South View Farm," one of the finest estates in Jackson township.

On November 26, 1864, Peter Kesler was married to Elizabeth Crites, who was born in Allen County, October 16, 1840, and is a daughter of Charles and Sophia (Ludwig) Crites. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania and very early settlers in German township, Allen County, where the Crites family

is one of unusual prominence. Hon. Charles Crites, father of Mrs. Kesler, represented Allen County in the State Legislature, and served as justice of the peace in German township for many years, being one of Allen County's truly representative citizens.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kesler have had seven children, the survivors being: S. Willison, of Allen County; Albertis, residing at Wetsel; and Julia A., wife of Winfield M. McGinnis, of Middlepoint. Those deceased are Mary, A., Charles W., Sophia E. and May V.

Early in 1870, Mr. Kesler and his family located in Jackson township, of which he has since been a resident, with the exception of several years when he resided in Allen County. Both he and his wife are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Wetsel, in which he is serving as deacon and church treasurer. He has taken a deep interest in public affairs and the cause of public education has ever found in him a friend. Mr. Kesler has served as township trustee and is looked upon as one of Jackson township's most reliable and substantial men.

NOAH WEISMAN, a prominent and influential agriculturist of Van Wert County, residing on a farm of 93½ acres in section 18, Pleasant township, came to this locality early in the '50's with his parents, Joel and Sarah (Troup) Weisman. They were natives of Perry County, Ohio, as is our subject, who was born August 9, 1846. The father was of German descent and long a school teacher in Pleasant township; both he and his wife have been dead for several years.

Noah Weisman grew to manhood in Pleasant township and has been a farmer since his early years. In December, 1861, he enlisted

in Company K, 46th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and was in the Army of the Tennessee until honorably discharged in the fall of 1862. He took part in the engagements of his regiment in Kentucky and Tennessee, but was not present with his comrades in the battle of Pittsburg Landing, as he was then sick in a hospital.

On October 4, 1864, Mr. Weisman was joined in marriage to Isabelle Zimmerman, who was born March 17, 1846, in Pleasant township, on the farm which is still her home. Her parents were Christian R. and Barbara (Greenamyre) Zimmerman, natives of Columbiana County, Ohio. In 1844 they located in Pleasant township, Van Wert County, and were among the first white settlers in that locality, their cabin being built in the woods and communication with the outside world being by trails marked by blazed trees. Mr. Zimmerman died in 1887 and his wife the year following. Mrs. Weisman is the sole survivor of the family. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Weisman are as follows: Oran W.; Ina D. (Mrs. B. T. Pile); John B.; Alice R., deceased; and Perry Z. They are both members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, General Synod, and Mr. Weisman is elder of Mount Zion Church in Pleasant township. Although he is a Democrat, he accords to others the perfect liberty of thought on political questions which he desires for himself. His fraternal membership is confined to Pleasant Grange, No. 399, Patrons of Husbandry, of which he has served as master.



WILEY M. KEAR, one of the leading business men of Van Wert, who conducts a real estate, investment and brokerage business in his office at the corner of Main and Washington streets, was born at Van Wert, April 22, 1851,

and is a son of Thomas Reed and Catherine (Frisinger) Kear.

Thomas Reed Kear, father of Wiley M., was born in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, April 27, 1806, and was a son of John and Mary (Reed) Kear, his ancestry being English and Scotch. John Kear was a soldier in Capt. William Holt's company, Eighth Regiment of Virginia Militia, in the War of 1812. His father worked in a shipyard, and did other service in the Revolutionary War. About the year 1818, John Kear moved with his family, excepting his son Thomas, to Licking County, Ohio, where he died November 31, 1820, leaving three sons—Thomas Reed, William Reed and John Reed (the last named deceased when a young man, unmarried) and four daughters: Eleanor, intermarried with John Pring; Mary Ann, intermarried with Richard Pring (a brother to John); Amelia, intermarried with Frederick Baylor; and Ophelia, who died when a young woman, unmarried. Mary (Reed) Kear, the mother of Thomas Reed Kear, was a native of Maryland, a descendant of one of the oldest families of that commonwealth. The Reeds were engaged in ocean traffic with ships of their own building, and were merchants in Baltimore after the Revolution, especially Mrs. Kear's brothers, William and Thomas Reed.

Thomas Reed Kear, after several years spent as a sailor, joined his mother in Licking County subsequent to the death of his father and engaged with his brothers-in-law, John and Richard Pring, in cabinet making and farming; all of them moved to Champaign County, Ohio, about the year 1828. By reason of John Pring being a millwright, an additional source of employment was provided for the three young men, who in 1829 went to Willshire, Van Wert County, Ohio, to build a mill; but on account of an insufficiency of grain

to make such an enterprise pay they went on West to Muncie, Indiana, where a cousin by the name of Muncie lived. In that section, and in Adams County, Indiana, they plied their vocation for several years. Finally the Prings located permanently in Van Wert County, in 1833 and 1834, and Thomas R. Kear in Adams County, Indiana, where he lived until 1835, when he removed to Willshire township, Van Wert County, where he lived, working at his trades, until 1843, when he removed to Van Wert, at that time a village of 11 families, which offered a fine field for his business. Here he died May 11, 1864, from pneumonia brought on by exposure. He saw the village grow into a thriving and prosperous town. He served as deputy under the first sheriff of Van Wert County, was subsequently elected sheriff by the Democratic party, and served in that office, and in the office of public crier, for several years. On May 1, 1846, he was appointed aid-de-camp, Second Regiment, 12th Division of Ohio Militia, to serve in the Mexican War.

On April 29, 1829, in Champaign County, Ohio, Thomas Reed Kear was married to Catherine Frisinger (see Marriage Record B, on page 223), who was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, April 12, 1812, and was a daughter of Peter and Catherine (Aker) Frisinger. Peter Frisinger and his father were both in the War of the Revolution, and in the Virginia Militia in the War of 1812, Peter Frisinger serving as a private in Capt. Christopher Morris' company of Light Infantry, Fourth Regiment of Virginia Militia, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Wooding Huston and Lieutenant Colonel. He died in the service on January 4, 1815. Catharine Aker (German-"Eker") was a daughter of John Aker, who by his descendants is called both John and Henry, from which fact it is presumed that his name was John Henry Aker.

She had several brothers and sisters, and some of the younger generations have spelled the name "Akers," "Acer", "Acers" and "Eckers". Peter Frisinger was the father of 11 children—five sons and six daughters. Five of the daughters married and lived in Champaign County, Ohio. The youngest daughter, Catharine, who became the wife of Thomas Reed Kear, with her brothers, John and Peter, moved to Willshire township, Van Wert County, Ohio. The other three brothers, William, Jacob and Noah, moved into Mercer County, Ohio, and were among the first settlers in that county, where there are many of their descendants still living. A son of Peter is still living at the age of 87 years. The children born to Thomas Reed Kear and his wife were: Mary M., wife of Jackson Pence, of Willshire township; John J., of Van Wert and Toledo; Amelia C., deceased; Lydia A., of Petersburg, Illinois; Amanda A., of Van Wert and Granville, Ohio, now of Norfolk, Virginia; Benjamin F., deceased and buried about three miles west of Hennessey, Oklahoma, who lived in many different places in the United States; Sarah E., deceased, who lived near Brandon, Buchanan County, Iowa; Robert T., deceased, who lived at Van Wert; Wiley M., of Van Wert; and Elisie A., who died when a child. The mother of our subject survived until November 1, 1895, she being at that time over 83 years of age. In 1836 she united with the first Methodist body organized in Van Wert County, which was known as the "Pring Class", its spiritual leader being Richard Pring known in this section, and later in Iowa, as "A man of God, and full of the Spirit." On moving to Van Wert, she immediately attached herself to the Methodist body there, and remained an active and efficient member through her long, beautiful life.

After the death of his father, when he was

but 15 years of age, Wiley M. Kear commenced working in the first stave factory built in Van Wert, operated by Warren & Wells, where he continued to be employed until his 18th year, when he secured a position on a farm near Plymouth, Indiana, where he was permitted to attend school during one winter, under the instruction of that good teacher, Albert Nash. Returning to Van Wert, he resumed work in the stave factory, working eight months in the year, and devoting four months to advancing his education. When 21 years of age he went West, and was engaged in farm work in the vicinity of Brandon, Buchanan County, Iowa, until 1837, when he came back to his native place. Here he worked at cutting bolts for staves, general teaming and assisting in a sawmill, and teaching school in winter, until January, 1879, when he entered the county recorder's office, and served four years. At the same time he began his loaning business, which he carried on with the real estate business, which he had commenced as an agent for his mother in 1873, laying out and platting "Catherine Kear's Addition to the Village of Van Wert." He sold off the lots, and built a house on the remaining land of his mother. In 1883 he decided to devote his entire attention exclusively to real estate, investments and brokerage.

On June 17, 1879, at Brandon, Iowa, Mr. Kear was married to Malinda Romig, who is a daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth (Young) Romig. Mrs. Kear was born October 14, 1853, in Jefferson County, Wisconsin but several years prior to her marriage removed with her parents to Brandon, Iowa. Isaac Romig was born in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, March 26, 1814, and was married March 13, 1842, to Elizabeth Young, who was born in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Au-

gust 8, 1823. She was a daughter of Jacob Young and Katharine Strong (Williamson) Young, who was a daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Richey) Williamson. Isaac Romig was a son of Isaac and Mary Catharine (Schubert) Romig. Isaac Romig, Sr., was a son of John Romig, who was born about the year 1737 in Macungie township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, and died in 1803. John Romig had two wives; the second one, a Miss Rothermel, who died in 1816, came originally from Holland and was a daughter of John and Sybilla (Zimmerman) Rothermel. John Rothermel died at sea, and his widow landed in Philadelphia. Sybilla (Zimmerman) Rothermel was a daughter of John George Zimmerman and Barbara (Metzger) Zimmerman, who was a sister to Lieut. Gen. Theobold Metzger, Governor of Breda, known also as "Theobold from Weibnom", who left a large estate in Holland, which was forfeited to the crown, over which estate there has been much litigation and useless expenditure of money by some of his heirs in France and the United States, in a vain attempt to secure it. George Schubert, father of Mary Catharine (Schubert) Romig, was born in Germany, and came to the United States when a child of two years. He lived in Weisenburg township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, where he died at the age of 80 years. He was married to Christiana Nunygesser (spelled sometimes Nunygesser), who was born in Weisenburg township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Wiley M. Kear, are as follows: C. R., a lieutenant in the United States Navy; Helen L., Georgiana M., Roy Donald, Paul Winfred, Harry Alexander and Thomas W., deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Kear are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically, the subject



MR. & MRS. CONNOR FORD AND FAMILY

of this sketch is a Republican. Fraternally he is an Odd Fellow, a Mason and a member of the Home Guards of America.

BENJAMIN JONES, deceased, formerly one of the substantial farmers of Willshire township, where he owned a finely improved farm of 293 acres, located in section 10, was also an honored survivor of the great Civil war in which he served for four years. He was born in Richland (now Ashland) County, Ohio, January 17, 1837, and died January 27, 1903.

Benjamin Jones, the great-grandfather of our subject, was born in Wales and came to America in company with a number of colonists, with whom he settled on a portion of the site of the present beautiful city of Baltimore, Maryland, where he subsequently died, leaving children. James Jones, a son, was born at Baltimore, resided there until he was 21 years of age, when he migrated to Ohio and in 1808 settled in Columbia County. He married Rachel Arnold and they lived in various sections of the State, including Stark, Wayne, Medina and Richland counties. In the county last named he died in 1840 and was survived by his widow for five years.

James Jones, son of James and father of Benjamin, was born near Baltimore, Maryland, in December, 1807, and hence was but an infant when his parents brought him to Ohio. In July, 1843, in Medina County, he married Catherine Deweese, a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Shaffer) Deweese, and to this marriage were born these children: Joseph, Benjamin, Elizabeth, Uriah and Daniel, all deceased; James of Idaho; and John of Michigan. At different periods James Jones and his family resided in Medina and Richland coun-

ties, Ohio, and Adams County, Indiana. The mother of the family was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, December 19, 1819, and died in Indiana, September 12, 1899. In political sentiment James Jones was a Democrat, and in religious belief, a Catholic.

The late Benjamin Jones was brought up to hard work and strict discipline, both on the home farm and in the household. His education was that afforded by the district schools of his locality, where, in spite of their disadvantages, he became a well-informed young man. He was reared to be loyal to the government, and no one opposed him, when, in 1861, he decided to enter the army to assist in overcoming the rebellion. He became a member of Company A, 47th Reg., Indiana Vol. Inf., and during the entire four years of his army life proved himself a true, loyal and courageous soldier on the field of battle, and a cheerful bearer of the innumerable hardships which fell to his lot. The list of terrible battles in which he took part proves conclusively that his service was one of danger as well as honor. He participated in the battles of Fort Madrid, Missouri; Fort Pillow, Tennessee; Browns Plantation, Mississippi; Jackson, Mississippi; Catu Bayou; Muddy Bayou, Martinsville and Atchafalaya, all in Louisiana; Spanish Fort, Fort Blakely and Mobile, Alabama; Vicksburg, Riddle Point, Gibson, Champion Hill and many smaller engagements. At Vicksburg, June 18, 1863, he was seriously wounded in the head, and bore the mark to his grave. On another occasion he was kicked on the head by a mule which produced an injury to his skull, and he also had one leg crushed—an injury which also gave him trouble all his subsequent life and on account of which, the government justly awarded him a pension. Mr. Jones received his honorable discharge from his country's service, on November 1, 1865.

having been appointed to the rank of sergeant on October 30, 1862.

When this brave soldier returned from the army, he possessed what he had saved from his wages and what he had earned by working for some of his less thrifty comrades. He had always been accustomed to hard work, as his father had died when he was only 11 years old and heavy responsibilities had thus fallen early upon him.

On December 24, 1865, Mr. Jones was united in marriage with Mary Dailey, who was born November 12, 1846, in Adams County, Indiana, and is a daughter of James and Mary (Johnson) Dailey. James Dailey was born in Athens County, September 23, 1819 and his wife in Harrison County, in 1822. Mr. Dailey acquired 600 acres of land in Adams County, Indiana. He died February 27, 1863, but was survived by his widow until December 4, 1886. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Jones, Joseph Johnson, entered 240 acres of land in section 10, Willshire township, coming here from Harrison County on May 14, 1836.

On March 17, 1866, Benjamin Jones and wife settled on their present farm, a part of it being a portion of the land entered by Joseph Johnson. It then contained 160 acres, which had been partially cleared and on which stood good log buildings. Mr. Jones continued to add to the original farm until he owned 293 acres, 65 acres of which form so valuable an oak forest that the place is appropriately known as the "Forest Oak Farm." This farm he continued to operate during his active life, carrying on a general line of agriculture and raising excellent stock. The property has been greatly improved, in 1882 Mr. Jones erecting the commodious brick residence, which was fitted up with everything to make it a comfortable and even luxurious home. Here his last days were passed in comfortable retirement.

Mr. Jones left his widow and numerous descendants, having had a family of 13 children, as follows: Emma, wife of George Hawkins, of Wren; Eva, wife of Nelson Moser, also of Wren; Daniel D., who is studying medicine at Chicago, Illinois; Esias T., of Adams County, Indiana; Benjamin Oscar, who is the capable home farmer, taking all care from his mother; James, who died aged three months; Charles J., a resident of Adams County, Indiana; Harry O., a practicing physician in Oklahoma; Mary A., a student in the Van Wert High School; and Harvey H., Clarence C., Fred C. and Clara A., all attending school and living at home.

In his political convictions, the late Benjamin Jones was a staunch Republican, but he was no seeker for public office. He took a deep interest in the Grand Army of the Republic organization at Willshire, and thoroughly enjoyed meeting his old war comrades. As a business man Mr. Jones possessed keen insight and sound judgment. He was a devoted husband, a kind and careful father, reared a family which is creditable to him and to the community, and took an honest pride in his reputation as an honest and upright man. When he passed away he was mourned by the entire community, for many there were who, during his lifetime, had experienced his practical kindness and profited by his friendly advice. A picture of Mr. and Mrs. Jones and their family accompanies this sketch.



JOHN F. BAKER, one of the representative men of Hoaglin township, who resides on his well-cultivated farm of 70 acres, situated in section 8, was born in Coshocton, Ohio, February 22, 1856, but was raised in Fairfield County. He is a

son of Amos and Lucinda (Valentine) Baker.

It is not known definitely where Amos Baker was born, but probably in Coshocton County, Ohio; his wife, a native of Pennsylvania, was brought to Fairfield County, Ohio, when she was a small child. The family ancestry is Scotch.

Our subject was reared to the age of 19 years in Coshocton County, being educated in the local schools and then going to Pickaway County, Ohio, where he engaged in farming until 1889. He then came to Van Wert County and in the fall of 1892 settled on his present farm, which he has vastly improved, possessing now good, substantial buildings and well-cultivated fields.

On July 30, 1879, John F. Baker was married to Eliza J. Helvering, who was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, March 22, 1863. They have four children, viz.: J. William, of Paulding County; Estella M., wife of Eldo Myers, of Van Wert; Leafie D., living at home; and Roy V., of Hoaglin township. The parents of Mrs. Baker, George and Elizabeth (Cline) Helvering, were old settlers in Pickaway county, the father dying when she was an infant. Politically Mr. Baker is a Democrat. He has served three years as a trustee of Hoaglin township, and is considered one of the township's excellent citizens in every respect.

JAMES F. JAMISON, a progressive farmer of Section 24, Washington township, was born in Jennings township, Putnam County, August 18, 1854, and is the youngest of nine children born to Marmaduke and Elizabeth (Van Meter) Jamison. His paternal grandfather, James Jamison, was a native of Pennsylvania

and was of Irish ancestry, while the maternal grandparents were from Virginia, of Dutch origin. Marmaduke Jamison was born and reared in Ross County and his wife in Fairfield County, Ohio, removing to Putnam County, where they were married and resided many years near Columbus Grove. Their children were as follows: Jasper; Isaac, deceased; Susan, wife of Samuel Oatman, now deceased; Francis; Cinderella; Adam; John, deceased; Alexander and James.

James F. Jamison reached manhood on the farm upon which he was born, and acquired his education in the district schools. He has been a farmer since childhood, when he assisted with the chores before he was large enough to take a more responsible task, and at the age of 16 years assumed the duties of the household. In March, 1905, he located in Washington township, Van Wert County, and purchased 30 acres of land, and although his residence there has been comparatively brief he has attached to himself many warm, enduring friendships. He has an enviable reputation as a breeder of superior hogs, making a specialty of the Poland-China variety, and has some of the finest animals to be found in the county.

Mr. Jamison was married December 12, 1882, to Huldah Engelman, a daughter of Charles and Margaret (Buettner) Engelman. Her parents were born and reared in the same village in Saxony, Germany, and when Charles Engelman came to America in 1848, he was followed, a year later, by Margaret Buettner to whom he was married upon her arrival here. Mrs. Jamison has one brother, George Paul, living in Paulding County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. James F. Jamison have four children—Stewart, Carl, Laura and Herbert. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Delphos, Mr. Jamison being a trustee. He

was a member of the School Board in Jennings township, Putnam County for 23 years and has been a life-long Republican.

JOHN S. IRELAND resides on a farm of 93 acres in section 33, Ridge township, and is widely and favorably known throughout Van Wert County, where he was born June 24, 1848, and where he has resided all his life. His parents were William D. and Mary M. (Stemen) Ireland.

William D. Ireland, who was born in Ross County, Ohio, is supposed to have been of Irish extraction. His parents removed to Allen County while he was still young, and it was there he reached manhood and married Mary M. Stemen, a native of Pennsylvania. With his brother, Elihu S., he came to Van Wert County and entered 120 acres of land in section 33, Ridge township, upon which they located in 1847, and where he continued to reside until his death some 18 years later. He took an active interest in township affairs, serving as trustee and also as constable for a number of years; was a Republican in politics, and a member of the Masonic blue lodge at Van Wert. The following children survive him, viz.: John S.; Mary M. (Mrs. G. H. Poe), of Kenton, Ohio; Eliza J. (Mrs. Jacob C. Smith); Lydia A. (Mrs. John Chamberlain), of Michigan; Christian S.; Rachel L. (wife of Harvey Sanders); and Elizabeth F. (Mrs. J. A. Uncapher).

John S. Ireland spent his early years in the manner of other country boys of his day, going to school during the winter and assisting in the farm duties during the spring and summer months. When old enough to start in life for himself he continued the work with which he was familiar and in which he has been so successful.

On July 4, 1873, Mr. Ireland was married to Iva C. Junkins, who is a native of Hardin County, Ohio. Six children have blessed their home, viz.: Elmer H., Alvin W.; Orven O.; Walter H.; Marion E. and Freddie O.—the two last named being deceased. Mr. Ireland is a Republican and was at one time constable. He was also on the School Board for a number of years, and was a strong factor in raising the standard of education in Ridge township. Mr. Ireland is a member of the Society of Friends and is a trustee of the church in Ridge township, known as the "Prodigal Home."

WILLIAM H. DAILEY, senior member of the law firm of Dailey & Allen, at Van Wert, and one of the leading members of the Van Wert bar, was born August 28, 1865, the son of the late Judge Amos T. and Eliza J. (Ainsworth) Dailey.

Thomas Dailey, the great-grandfather of William H., came to Ohio in 1820 and settled in Meigs County. Esaias Dailey, the grandfather, was born in Harrison County, Virginia, and accompanied his father to Ohio. He married Mary Ann Thompson, and of their eight children the late Judge Amos Dailey was the eldest. From 1882 until 1888, the latter served as judge of probate in Van Wert County, from 1889 to 1893 was postmaster at Van Wert, and for years was recognized as one of the leading public men of the county. He married Eliza J. Ainsworth, and our subject is the fifth member of their family of six children.

William H. Dailey was reared and primarily educated in Van Wert County, in 1889 graduating from the law department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor. In

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MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM HOOVER

1890 he entered into the practice of his profession at Van Wert, continuing alone until 1895, when he formed a partnership with H. W. Blachly, which was continued until 1897. The association was then dissolved and he again continued in independent practice until March, 1905, when the present law firm was organized. Mr. Dailey has been an active member of the Republican party since attaining his majority.

William H. Dailey was married June 1, 1904, to Margaret E. Handlen, who is a daughter of John Handlen, a well known resident of Van Wert. Mr. Dailey and wife have a pleasant home at No. 230 South avenue, while his well appointed offices are in the Albright Block. Mrs. Dailey is a member of the Catholic Church but Mr. Dailey belongs to no denomination. Fraternally he is a member of the Elks, the Home Guards and the Knights of Pythias.



WILLIAM HOOVER, for many years an esteemed citizen of the county, residing on his farm in section 33, Hoaglin township, was born July 11, 1848, in Seneca County, Ohio. He is a son of Benjamin and Sarah (Boyer) Hoover, both of whom were of German descent, the father being a native of Perry County, Ohio, and the mother, of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, her parents moving to Perry County when she was a child of some three years. There Benjamin Hoover and his wife were married and it remained their home until about 1835, when they located in Seneca County at a time when that part of the State was but thinly settled. During the summer of 1849 they moved to Wyandot County, and later to Hancock County.

William Hoover grew to manhood in

Wyandot County, Ohio, and there acquired his education in the public schools. When not yet 16 years of age, on February 29, 1864, he enlisted in Company D, 123rd Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served until the close of the war, being mustered out May 24, 1865. This 15 months of service covered many of the fiercest battles of the entire war. Among the engagements in which Mr. Hoover participated may be mentioned, the battles of Newmarket, Piedmont, Winchester, Opequon, and Fisher's Hill. He was wounded at the two battles last named, as also at Cedar Creek, where he received a bullet wound in the right hand and another in the right arm. In the battle of Hatcher's Run, which was fought March 31, 1865, he was wounded in the left foot. These were among the most important engagements in which he participated, but he took part in many skirmishes and minor battles, and for some time was in the military hospital at Germantown, Pennsylvania. Returning to Wyandot County, Mr. Hoover resumed the duties of a private citizen and the year following moved to Hancock County, Ohio, where he lived for 11 years, when he located in Hardin County, Ohio, where he spent nine years. In 1886 he moved to Van Wert County and fixed his residence in Hoaglin township, which has since been his home. He is one of the prominent agriculturists of this section, having passed his entire life in his chosen vocation.

On March 10, 1872, William Hoover was married in Hancock County to Harriet E. Cummins, who was born there March 7, 1849, and is a daughter of the later James and Sarah (Richey) Cummins. To this union five children have been born, namely: Eliza L. (Mrs. John Blythe); Anna M. (Mrs. Ellsworth Rice) of Paulding County; Sarah E.; James O.; and G. Ethel (Mrs. Charles S. Stripe). All the children, except Mrs. Rice, reside in Hoaglin

township. Mr. and Mrs. Hoover are members of Fairview United Brethren Church. Mr. Hoover is a prominent member of the Grand Army of Republic; is a Democrat in his political views; has served as constable for three years; was school director of sub-district No. 2 for a like period, and is a man universally respected for his patriotism and his substantial abilities. On a preceding page are shown portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Hoover.

JAMES R. BELCH has been a resident of Van Wert County since the spring of 1881, when he moved to his present farm of 40 acres in section 36, Ridge township. He was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, November 14, 1842, and is a son of Joseph and Rebecca (Alford) Belch, both of whom were natives of that State. They were married December 13, 1838, in Tuscarawas County, and in the fall of 1864 moved to Allen County, where the mother died, August 16, 1893. The father then moved to Middlepoint where he, also, passed away, December 28, 1894.

James R. Belch remained in his native county until his 22nd year, when he moved to Allen County and there engaged in farming operations until he located at this place in 1881. He is a very successful farmer—one who thoroughly understands his calling.

Mr. Belch has been twice married (first) in Allen County to Elizabeth Hammel, a native of Tuscarawas County, who died, without issue, in 1886. On January 24, 1889, he married his present wife, who was Mrs. Emily A. Pollock, born July 18, 1859, in York township, Van Wert County, and a daughter of Benjamin D. and Rachel (Thomas) Strother—the former of Muskingum County, and the latter, of Madison County, Ohio.

Mrs. Belch's father settled in York township more than half a century ago and reared a large family of children who are a credit to his teaching, all but one of whom are residents of this county, viz.: Harriet R., wife of John Tipple; Mary E., Mrs. William Johnson; Nancy I., who married A. L. Everett; James M.; Emily A., wife of Mr. Belch; and Erwin Arthur, a minister of the M. E. Church stationed in Toledo, Ohio. Emily A. Strothers was first married to Benjamin F. Pollock, and three of the children of that marriage are living, viz.: Arthur R. of Columbus; Cora B., wife of F. H. Lehmann of Washington township; and Bessie I.


By his second marriage Mr. Belch became the father of three children, namely: Velma E.; Mary U.; and Ernest A. Both Mr. and Mrs. Belch are members of the Methodist Church at Middlepoint. He belongs to the Improved Order of Red Men at that place and to the G. A. R., being a veteran of the Civil war. In the fall of 1863 he enlisted in Company D, 161st Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and was in service, for the most part in Virginia, until September, 1864, when he was honorably discharged and returned home. In politics Mr. Belch is a Republican.

RED H. WEGESIN, one of the successful agriculturists of Washington township, who with his brother John owns and operates a fine farm of 160 acres, 80 acres of which is situated in section 36, Washington township, Van Wert County, and 80 acres in section 1, Marion township, Allen County. He was born in Delphos, Ohio, February 23, 1871, the son of Henry and Catherine (Ballman) Wegesin, and the fourth of a family of seven children.

Henry Wegesin was born in Hanover,

Germany, and came to this country when only 17 years of age. Mrs. Wegesin was also a native of Germany and when a small child emigrated with her parents to the United States, first locating in Cincinnati. Her parents had been undecided about coming to America, because some of the members of the family preferred remaining in Germany. When first locating in Cincinnati they took a house previously occupied by a family who had had the typhoid fever, and Mrs. Wegesin's brother and sister both contracted the disease, dying within nine weeks after landing in America.


Mr. and Mrs. Wegesin were married in Delphos, where he was engaged in the marble business, later becoming a mason contractor for bridge work. The seven children born to this union were as follows: Frank, who lives in Marion township, Allen county, Ohio and married Johanna Hampf; Anna, who married Henry Bramer and died April 5, 1897; Rose, who lives on the home farm; Fred H., Carrie, wife of Henry Honhost of Marion township, Allen County, Ohio; John, who has an interest in the home farm; and Kate, wife of Henry Moreo of Delphos. The family are all members of the St. John's Catholic Church of Delphos.

ILAS H. EKEY, for many years one of the successful farmers of Washington township, resides on his well improved farm of 129½ acres, 80 acres of which are located in section 10, the remaining 49½ acres being across the road in section 3. He was born March 22, 1858, in Jefferson County, Ohio, and is the son of Andrew and Catharine (McCullough) Ekey.

Andrew Ekey is of English descent, his paternal grandfather emigrating from the mother country. He himself was born in Jef-

terson County, Ohio. There he was reared and educated, and remained in that county until after his marriage. Mrs. Ekey's ancestors came from Ireland. Andrew Ekey and family came to Ashland County, Ohio, when Silas was only two years old, and purchased a farm of 200 acres upon which they located. The eight children of the family were: Taylor, the oldest son, now living in Ashland County, who married Tillithea Beckman; Martha, wife of Lige Bright of Ashland county; Isabelle, who married Marion Brown and is deceased; Hugh who married Laura Wallace and resides in Ashland County; Emma, wife of Albert Barnes, who lives in Richland County; Albert, who married Pearl Hoffman and lives on the old homestead in Ashland county; and Mary, formerly Mrs. Barcellian Scott, now deceased:

Silas H. Ekey was reared and educated in Ashland county, having always devoted his time and energies to farming. In 1895 he moved to Van Wert County, Ohio, purchased his farm of 129½ acres from Simon Timbers and has since resided there. Mr. Ekey has never married. While he continues to live on the farm, except for raising some corn and wheat, he has not been actively engaged in agricultural operations for some time, but leases the ground to others. He is now devoting his time to the breeding of cattle, and at present has a fine herd of 17 head.

ILLIAM H. WALTERS, one of the leading agriculturists of Pleasant township, who owns a well-cultivated farm of 110 acres, situated in section 6, was born in Ridge township, Van Wert County, August 13, 1860, and is a son of John J. and Julia A. (Gilliland) Wal-

ters. The late John J. Walters was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, and died during our subject's childhood. Later his mother became the wife of Christian Palmer, of Ridge township, where she still resides.

William H. Walters was reared and educated in Ridge township and his whole life has been devoted to agriculture. Since 1884 he has occupied his present farm and by thrift, enterprise and excellent management he has transformed it into one of the best homesteads in the township. His agricultural operations are of a general nature.

On December 13, 1883, Mr. Walters was married to Mary J. Fisher, who was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, February 22, 1861, and is a daughter of George and Sarah A. (Walters) Fisher, and a granddaughter of Mary E. (Wallace) Walters, the latter of whom still survive, being 95 years of age. Her home is in Tuscarawas County, to which she came in pioneer days, and her descendants of four generations are gathered around her. George Fisher, father of Mrs. Walters, is deceased, but his wife still resides in Tuscarawas County. The Children of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Walters are as follows: Olen L., Ethel, Anna D., David W. and Nellie M., the two last named being twins. Mr. Walters has faithfully cared for his children's education and is giving them every advantage in his power. The family belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church at Convoy.

Politically Mr. Walters is a Republican. He has served as school and cemetery trustee. He is overseer of Pleasant Grange, No. 399. Patrons of Hnsbandry, having already served as master, and altogether is widely known through this section of the county as a man of sterling character who commands unwavering esteem and confidence.

ELIJAH W. WILSON, deceased, who died April 25, 1900, at his beautiful home, No. 631 South Washington street, Van Wert, was long one of the leading business men of this city. He was the senior member of the large contracting firm of Wilson & Zook, a sketch of the latter appearing in this volume.

Elijah W. Wilson was one of a family of eight children born to John and Mary (Morrison) Wilson. He was born on October 15, 1824, in Richland County, Ohio, and there resided until he located at Van Wert in 1860. In the early days of the Civil war he enlisted in defense of his country, and served three months as a member of the 15th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., after the expiration of his term he reenlisted, but was discharged shortly afterward on account of sickness. He was a good soldier and through life a patriotic citizen.

After settling in Van Wert County, Mr. Wilson entered into the contracting business and later became associated with Mr. Zook, the partners building many of the finest residences and most substantial business blocks in the city of Van Wert. The death of Mr. Wilson was deeply deplored by his fellow citizens, as it removed a man who was thoroughly honest and upright in all his business dealings and, to the close of a long life, consistently thoughtful and considerate.

Mr. Wilson was married to Ellen S. Linn, a daughter of the late Andrew Linn, who still survives him. Andrew Linn was a native of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, and married Jennie Patterson. In 1837 he moved to Richland County, Ohio, and in 1848 settled in section 10, Washington township, now a part of Delphos. He served as the second postmaster of Delphos, was justice of the peace for a long

time, and active as an old-line Whig. He was the father of the following eight children: William Scott; Mary Ann (Barnett), of Richland County, Ohio; Martha and Elizabeth, both deceased; Catharine, deceased, former wife of H. S. Hunter, of Delphos; Andrew, deceased; Susan C., widow of Gideon Ditto, who resides in Spencerville; and Ellen S., the widow of our subject.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were the parents of four children, all of whom died in infancy. A child was taken into their home, whom they raised and educated—Lillian Murray, who is now married and lives in Bellefontaine, Ohio.

Mr. Wilson was a member of the different branches of Masonry and of the order of Knights Templar and during his earlier years was active in that organization.



CHRISTIAN PALMER, a veteran of the Civil war and leading farmer of Ridge township, has resided on his farm in section 32 for many years. He was born March 4, 1842, in Allen County, Ohio, and is a son of Samuel and Louisa (Ash) Palmer—the former a native of Virginia, and the latter, of Maryland. When Christian was a lad of ten years the father died, leaving a number of children.

Christian Palmer received his education in the common schools of Allen County, and, at the age of 18 years (his mother having in the meantime married again) he left home to support himself and make a place for himself as a man of the world. He at once gave his attention to farming and has been uniformly successful. On June 22, 1862, Mr. Palmer enlisted in Company F, 118th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and was detailed as teamster. He was in the Georgia campaign; the siege and capture

of Atlanta; battle of Nashville, Tennessee; was with Sherman at Goldsboro, North Carolina, and participated in many other important engagements, receiving an honorable discharge from the service in June, 1865.

Returning to Ohio, Mr. Palmer came to Van Wert County, where he was married to Margaret Oman, who was a native of Allen County. This union resulted in the birth of two sons—Leroy and Charles, both of whom are deceased. The present Mrs. Palmer was formerly Mrs. Julia A. Walters, to whom he was married on June 22, 1871. She was the widow of the late John J. Walters and a daughter of Adam and Sarah (Shaffner) Gilliland, who resided in this county at an early day and died in Ridge township. Mrs. Palmer is a native of Van Wert County, where she was born January 9, 1838. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer have had five children, viz.: Frank H., who lives at home; Robert G., a farmer of Ridge township; Adam A., residing in Liberty township; Sarah L., wife of George Poe of Pleasant township; and Carrie A., deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Salem. Politically Mr. Palmer is a Republican and was formerly trustee of Ridge township.



GEORGE MICHAEL KIMMET, one of the prominent farmers of Washington township, who resides on his farm of 147 acres, located in section 29, was born in Seneca County, Ohio, on February 14, 1843, and is the son of George and Helena (Baumgartner) Kimmet, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father was born in the village of Hessler County of Karlstatt, Kingdom of Bavaria, in the year of 1797, being reared and educated in Germany.

After completing his education he learned the trade of a stone mason, and subsequently became a building inspector. His wife, formerly Helena Baumgartner, was a native of the village of Minster, County of Germüinter Unterfranken and Asheffenburg, Kingdom of Bavaria. Mr. Kimmet, with his wife and six children, emigrated to America, landing in New York after a voyage of 83 days. Mr. and Mrs. George Kimmet were the parents of the following children: Jacob, Barbara; Adam; and Ottilia—all born in Germany and now deceased; John, born in Seneca County, Ohio, also deceased; George M., of this sketch; George W., born in Seneca county, Ohio, and now living in Howell County, Missouri; and Henry, a native of Seneca County, Ohio, who now resides in Coffey County, Kansas.

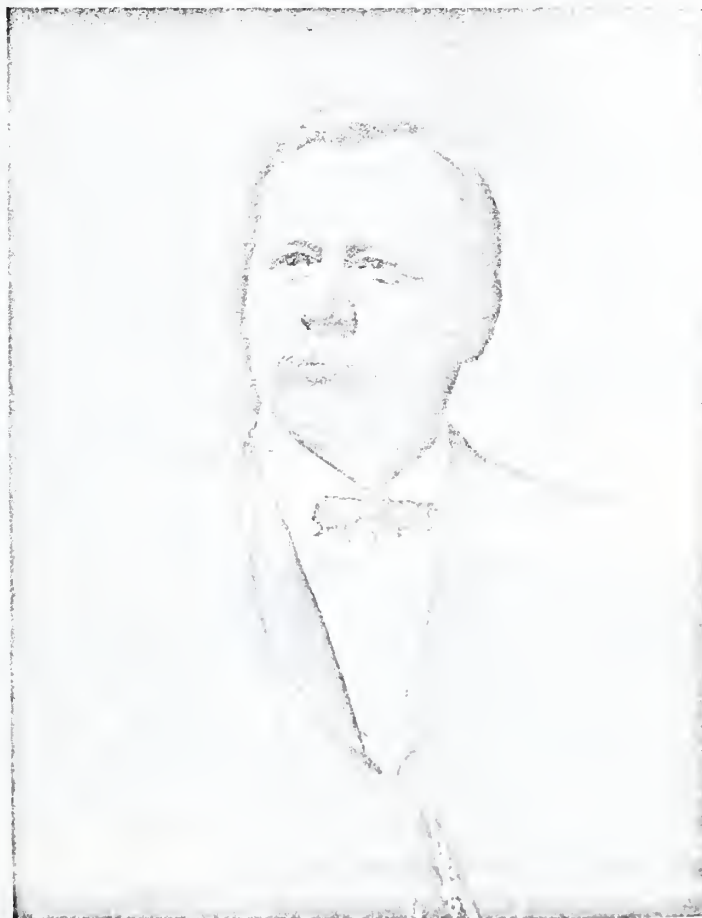
George Mitchell Kimmet was reared and educated in Seneca County, Ohio, and at the age of 21 years removed to Van Wert County. After disposing of his 40 acres of land in Seneca County, he purchased 40 acres in Van Wert County, and has gradually added to his original farm until now he has 228 acres of land located in sections 20, 29, and 32. All of the buildings on the place are convenient and modern, Mr. Kimmet having built his present large barn in 1881, and in 1903 erected another large one on section 32. In 1887 he built the fine large brick home now occupied by himself and family.

On May 3, 1870, Mr. Kimmet was married to Mary Barbara Reindel, daughter of George Reindel, one of the old settlers of Washington township, Van Wert County, and they have become the parents of 15 children (14 of whom are still living), as follows: Mary Kimmet, born February 10, 1871, and who died September 20, 1871; George J., born April 6, 1872, who married Laura Sendelbach of Seneca County; Christina, who was born

October 30, 1873, and lives in Toledo, Ohio; Anna May, born January 21, 1875, now Mrs. Jacob Reurick, who lives near Landeck, in Allen County, Ohio; John, born March 9, 1876; Joseph, born December 15, 1877, who married Anna Fonefelt; Barbara, born February 28, 1880; Michael, born July 5, 1881; Helen, born May 13, 1883; George Henry, born May 2, 1885; Anna Frances, born August 3, 1886; Leo, born December 31, 1887; Anna, born March 2, 1890; Aloysius, born June 17, 1891; and Albert F., who was born February 1, 1893. They are also rearing a boy—Oscar Ireland—born February 12, 1897, who was sent to them July 27, 1898.

In his public and fraternal relations Mr. Kimmet has served as trustee of Washington township, has been a member of the school board, and is connected with the St. Joseph society. Mr. Kimmet and family are all members of the St. John's Catholic Church of Delphos.

JOSHUA WAGERS, who is now serving his eighth term as a justice of the peace, in Willshire township, resides on his well improved farm of 160 acres in sections 8 and 9. He belongs to one of the old, honorable and numerous pioneer families of this section of Ohio, and was born in section 9, Willshire township, October 5, 1837, his parents being John and Anna (Johnson) Wagers. The father was born in 1806, in Baltimore County, Maryland, and was 14 years of age when he accompanied his parents to Harrison County, Ohio, where he married Anna Johnson. The children of Mr. and Mrs. John Wagers were: Rachel, (Mrs. Tindall) and Joseph J., both deceased; Mary (Mrs. Newford) of Willshire township; Joshua, of this sketch; David, a member during the Civil war



JOHN J. HOFMANN

of the Fourth Regiment, Ohio Vol. Cav., who died in the service at Chattanooga, Tennessee; Catherine (Mrs. Wolf); and John K., both of Wren, and Eliza, who died young. Three of the children were born in Harrison County and five in Van Wert County.

In April, 1837, John Wagers and family settled on section 9, Willshire township, where he entered 320 acres of land and later bought 40 acres, having 360 acres in one body, 80 of which was in section 8 and the balance in section 9. He cleared 150 acres of the land and placed it under cultivation, devoting his active life to farming and the improvement of his property. During nearly all his life pioneer conditions prevailed, and it was a long distance from his log cabin to the nearest mill point—Fort Wayne or St. Marys. In the early years the family subsisted largely on game, which was then plentiful on the land, which now embraces his fertile fields. John Wagers lived to the age of 85 and his worthy wife until nearly 91 years.

Joshua Wagers has always resided in Willshire township and, like his father, has devoted himself to agricultural pursuits, which include a general line of farming, stock raising and the buying and selling of cattle. His farm is a part of the old homestead entered by his father 70 years ago, and the land is well located, productive and valuable.

In 1858, Mr. Wagers was married (first) to Elmira Medaugh, who was born September 22, 1837, and died September 20, 1894. She was a daughter of those pioneers, Ephraim and Jane (Slater) Medaugh. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Wagers were: Wilhs B. of this township; Anna J. (Mrs. Close), deceased; Mary S. (Mrs. Agler), of Michigan, Ephraim J., of Geneva, Indiana; Charity A. (Mrs. Kreisher), of this township; and Minnie R. (Mrs. Hard), of North Dakota. Mr. Wagers

was married (second) to Mrs. Elizabeth Roland, widow of Levi Roland and daughter of Charles and Sarah Fleck.

Since casting his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, in his first presidential candidacy, Mr. Wagers has been identified with the Republican party. He has always taken a deep interest in public matters and has long been one of the prominent men of his township. During his long term of service as justice of the peace, Mr. Wagers has satisfactorily adjusted many difficulties and has rendered hundreds of decisions which have met with the public approval. For 13 years consecutively he has served as school director and for one term was township trustee. As to his religious connections, he is one of the leading members and most liberal supporters of the United Brethren Church at Wren.

JOHAN J. HOFMANN, of the firm of J. J. Hofmann & Company, hardwood lumber dealers in Pleasant township, is also an agriculturist of pronounced success and resides on a farm of 71 acres in section 30, Pleasant township, which has been his home for over 20 years. Mr. Hofman was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, November 25, 1860, and is a son of John C. and Magdalena (Germann) Hofman, the former a native of Germany, and the latter, of Van Wert County.

John C. Hofmann, the father, located in Pleasant township and was among the first to engage in running a sawmill in Van Wert County, doing quite an extensive business. He was married here to Magdalena Germann, daughter of Adam Peter Germann, who was an early resident of Harrison township. Six children were born to our subject's parents.

namely; John J.; Annie K., deceased; Martin H., of Pleasant township; August C., of Denver, Colorado; Rosa M., wife of Frederick Busch, of Pleasant township; and Lucy M., wife of Frederick Daaler, of Union township. The father of the family died in 1870.

When John J. Hofmann had attained his 16th year, he entered a sawmill, where he learned the business and continued as an employee for seven years. He then engaged in that line as a proprietor, adding the sale of lumber to its manufacture; and has succeeded beyond his expectations. He now handles large quantities of hardwood lumber and his yards and sawmill have such an extended patronage as to place them among the important industries of Van Wert County. In addition to being the proprietor of this enterprise, Mr. Hofmann is a farmer of no mean ability and is the owner of three tracts in this county, viz.: The farm upon which he resides in section 30, Pleasant township, which contains 71 acres of well-kept land; a farm of 46 acres in section 31, Pleasant township; and a half interest in 60 acres lying in Harrison township. His partner in this ownership, as well as the sawmill and lumber business, is F. C. Wambsgamss, of Harrison township. On a preceding page of this work are shown views of Mr. Hofmann's home and barn.

Mr. Hofmann was married November 25, 1883, to Anna C. Siegel, a native of Holmes County, Ohio, and their six children are: Theodore C., John R., Henry J., Ora A., Olga A. and Arthur C. Mr. Hofman is a member of St. Peter's German Lutheran Church, of Harrison township, and is one of the elders. He is a member of the School Board of Pleasant township and has endeavored maintain the schools at the highest grade. In politics he is a Democrat. His portrait accompanies this sketch.

ON. AMOS T. DAILEY, deceased. The late Judge Amos T. Dailey belonged to one of the pioneer families of Ohio, one which has proved itself, down to the present generation, worthy of the esteem and consideration of the communities in which its members dwell. He was born in Athens County, Ohio, March 16, 1832, and was a son of Esaias and Mary Ann (Thompson) Dailey.

Thomas Dailey, the grandfather was born of Irish parentage, in Delaware, in the year 1775. He was reared in Virginia, to which State his parents removed; was married to Mary Majors, in 1798; reared 10 children, and lived in Virginia until 1820. In that year he migrated to Ohio and settled in Meigs County, where he died in 1860, being survived four years by his wife.

Esaias Dailey, the father, was born in Harrison County, Virginia, December 6, 1805, but entered into manhood in Meigs County, Ohio, where he engaged in farming. It cannot be stated in what year he first located in Athens County, but in May, 1831, he was married there to Mary Ann Thompson and lived in that county until 1832. His wife was a daughter of Amos and Jane (McBain) Thompson—Irish and Scotch, respectively—she herself being a native of Virginia, born in October, 1810. The children of Esaias Dailey and wife were: Amos T., the immediate subject of this memoir; Jane, Mrs. John Smith; Nimrod, deceased; Esaias, of Kankakee, Illinois; Albert William, of Walkerton, Indiana; Victoria, Mrs. Joseph Foster, of Adams County, that State; Clayton, of Decatur, Indiana; and Mary Ann, wife of Dallas Foor. In 1833 Esaias Dailey moved to Auglaize County, Ohio, and resided for one year at St. Mary's, and in 1834 located in Van Wert County, entering land two miles west of Willshire, just

across the Indiana line. From 1837 until 1850 he followed farming here, and also conducted an old-fashioned inn situated on the stage route. He died October 14, 1869, his wife, the mother of Judge Dailey, having preceeded him long before, dying of cholera on July 22, 1854.


The late Judge Dailey was mainly educated in private schools, and at the Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, having come upon the stage of life before the present excellent public school system was perfected. Like many other of the young men of his time and manner of rearing, at the age of 24 years he was a practical farmer and an excellent judge of stock, engaging for several years in buying and driving stock, and on one occasion (in 1853) taking several droves of horses and cattle as far as Chicago. After his marriage, in 1856, he located in Athens County, Indiana, farmed until 1864 and then became a general merchant at Pleasant Mills, Indiana. He continued there in the mercantile business until 1870, when he settled in Willshire township, Van Wert County, Ohio, where he resumed farming.

In 1882 Mr. Dailey was selected for one of the most responsible and honorable positions in the county, that of probate judge, and this office he filled to the entire satisfaction of his fellow citizens until 1888. During a part of 1889 he resumed the buying and shipping of stock, but in that year he was appointed postmaster at Van Wert. After four years of faithful, honorable service in this office, he retired to private life, his death occurring on May 20, 1902.

On July 14, 1856, at Van Wert, Judge Dailey was married to Eliza Jane Ainsworth, a daughter of William and Susan Ainsworth, who was born January 1, 1837, at Madison, Ohio. The six children born to this union

were: Orsini and Susan, both deceased; Laura B.; Sarah G.; William H.; and Esaias. Of the above family William H. Dailey is one of the leading attorneys at Van Wert, and is the senior member of the law firm of Dailey & Allen. Mrs. Dailey died on January 21, 1906.

Judge Dailey was a life-long Republican and for a number of years was one of the party leaders in this section. He was a man of high principles, both in public and private life, and enjoyed the confidence, esteem and deep respect of his fellow citizens. In his fraternal relations he was a Royal Arch Mason.

ACOB BURGNER, a prominent farmer residing in section 7, Pleasant township, on a highly cultivated farm of 160 acres, has lived in Van Wert County 42 years and all but one year of this period in Pleasant township. He was born July 4, 1839, in Fairfield County, Ohio, and is a son of Joseph and Julia A. (Bailor) Burgner. The great-great-grandfather was born in Switzerland, whence he came to America, in 1734, and settled in Pennsylvania, from him having descended the numerous family of that name in the United States.

Joseph Burgner, the father of Jacob, was born in the State of Pennsylvania in 1811, and was 17 years of age when his parents came to Ohio and located in Fairfield County, where he died April 29, 1900, at a ripe old age. He was the father of ten children, four of whom are living, namely: Jacob; Aaron; Martin L., and Ardilla, widow of Joel McDonald. Eliza, the second child, died January 31, 1906. All were residents of Fairfield County, except Jacob Burgner, who was reared and educated there, but came to Van Wert County in De-

ember, 1863. For a short time he farmed in Ridge township and ex-county commissioner part of Pleasant township and there carried on agricultural operations until the spring of 1894, when he purchased his present farm in section 7. When Mr. Burgner first came to this section the scattering cabins, primitive frame houses and struggling hamlets gave little promise of the prosperity which now presents to view cosy homes, handsome residences, highly cultivated fields and thriving villages and cities—all bound together by telephone, electric and steam lines and the rural mail delivery.

Mr. Burgner was married December 22, 1864, to Caroline Knittle, born in Allen County Ohio, November 26, 1846, and a daughter of the late George Knittle of Ridge township, this county. Peter Knittle, a prominent farmer of Ridge township and ex-county commissioner of Van Wert, is a brother. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Burgner, viz.: Mary M.; Julia A., wife of Jacob Debolt, a farmer of Pleasant township; and Ora E., residing at home. In politics Mr. Burgner is a Democrat. He was for many years a director in sub-district No. 4, and took a lively interest in the successful management of the schools.



MUEL G. BAER, one of the representative farmers of Washington township, who now resides on his well-developed and finely improved farm of 80 acres in section 10, was born in Richland County, Ohio, July 21, 1856, and is the son of Daniel and Margaret Elizabeth (Peters) Baer, old settlers in Hoaglin township. In 1859 Daniel Baer moved his family from Richland County to Hoaglin township, subsequently selling his farm of 80 acres and

locating at Scott, Van Wert County, Ohio, where he lived until the time of his death, October 1, 1894. To Mr. and Mrs. Baer were born the following children: John D.; William H., now living in Middlepoint; Hannah, who died at the age of 18 months; Samuel G., the subject of this sketch; Mary A., who died at the age of 20; Daniel A. L., of Hoaglin township; Leonard F., who died when 19 years of age; and Anna, who died when an infant of two years. Mrs. Baer resides with her son, John D., who lives near Scott, Union township, Van Wert County.

Samuel G. Baer was reared and received his education in the schools of Hoaglin township, later attending the Ohio Normal University, at Ada, and after graduation taught for one year in Hoaglin township, but subsequently engaged in agriculture. On March 29, 1883, Mr. Baer was united in marriage with Rebecca Jane Friesner, a daughter of Ephraim and Dianah Freisner. Her father was one of the old settlers of Washington township, originally coming from Fairfield County, Ohio. He is still living and makes his home with Mr. Baer, the farm being jointly owned by them. The land is all cleared and drained and in a high state of cultivation. In 1902 they built the present large barn upon the place and have made many other improvements which add to its attractiveness and value.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel G. Baer have become the parents of four children, three of whom are living and one is deceased, namely: Effie Ethel, a high school student; Zenas Marion, who is taking a course in the Delphi High School; Lester Floyd; and Dane Lawrence, who died in infancy. Mr. Baer and family are members of the United Brethren Church of Middlepoint circuit. He has acted in the capacity of teacher and superintendent of the Sunday-school and secretary of the church, and

is at present the president of the township Sunday-school organization. Politically, Mr. Baer has always been a Republican, and for one year was census enumerator. He has also been a candidate for the School Board, but it was impossible to overcome the Democratic majority in Washington township.

LANDY JEFFERSON CLIFTON, one of the prominent general farmers and stock-raisers of Willshire township, where he owns a finely-improved farm of 160 acres in sections 7 and 8, was born in Liberty township, Van Wert County, October 18, 1854, being a son of Daniel and Sarah (Burk) Clifton.

Daniel Clifton was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, in 1826, and was a son of Job Clifton, who passed his life in Pickaway County, where he died aged 40 years. While still young he was thrown upon his own resources, and when but 18 years of age was married to Sara Burk, also a native of Pickaway County, who died in March 1863, aged 38 years. Their children were: Catherine (Mrs Bowen) of Willshire township; Margaret (Mrs. Dunathan), deceased; John, of this sketch; Charles M., deceased; and Abraham, of who nothing has been heard for the past 30 years. After his marriage Daniel Clifton moved to Springfield, Illinois, but subsequently returned to Pleasant township, where he lived from 1850 until 1864, when he enlisted in Company H, 15th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and died in the army about one year later, on January 1, 1865, aged 38 years.

At the age of 11 years Landy J. Clifton was thus left an orphan, being reared in the home of a brother-in-law until he was 18 years old, when he began life for himself as a day

laborer. He was industrious and willing, and during the years preceding his majority, while laboring at various occupations he made friends everywhere and providently saved his money, so that when he reached manhood he found himself able to first rent land and, later, to buy 80 acres in Adams County, Indiana. This tract he worked prior to his marriage, but never resided on it, subsequently selling it and purchasing his present home in the village of Wren. To this first purchase he continually added, until he possessed 200 acres as the direct result of his industry and excellent business perceptions. After selling 40 acres he still owns 160 which he has continued to improve until the present time. He has probably one of the most attractive homes in the township, having given great care to the arrangement of the evergreens and other shrubbery which ornament the lawn around the comfortable residence. All his buildings are neat and substantial and the entire appearance of the homestead testifies to the thrift and good management which prevail.

Mr. Clifton has not always been a farmer, having been engaged for 17 years in manufacture and sale of tile, during which time he gave employment to six men. For many years he has also acted in the capacity of auctioneer, and is very popular throughout the township. Politically he has long been prominently identified with the Republican party and for the past four years has served as a member of the County Central Committee from Willshire township. He has also been a member of the Town Council of Wren and president of the Board of Education.

On October 18, 1883, Mr. Clifton was married to Laura Belle Sheets, who was born in this township and is a daughter of Frederick and Nancy Ann (Merica) Sheets. They have had these children: Davis Leroy; Lambert

Dennis, who died when an infant of five months; Benjamin Harrison; Sherman Corval; Olive Viola and William McKinley.

Mr. Clifton is one of the leading members of the Radical United Brethren Church at Wren, is one of the trustees and has been a church steward ever since their edifice was erected. He is a good example of the self-made man—one who has overcome many obstacles through individual energy and one who enjoys in large measure the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens.

EDWARD E. CHAMBERS, county commissioner of Van Wert County, and one of the prominent farmers of Ridge township, where he has a well improved farm of 120 acres, was born in Knox County, Ohio, September 18, 1849, and is a son of John W. and Ellen (Cook) Chambers. The father removed from Knox County to Van Wert when his son, Edward E., was 10 years of age. For many years he was very prominently identified with the stock interests of this section, and was known throughout the county for his large operations in that line. He died in 1883, survived by a number of his family of 10 children.

Edward E. Chambers has been a resident of Van Wert County since 1860, being mainly educated in this county and having devoted the greater part of his life to agriculture. His well improved farm in Ridge township is one of the very valuable properties in his section of the county.

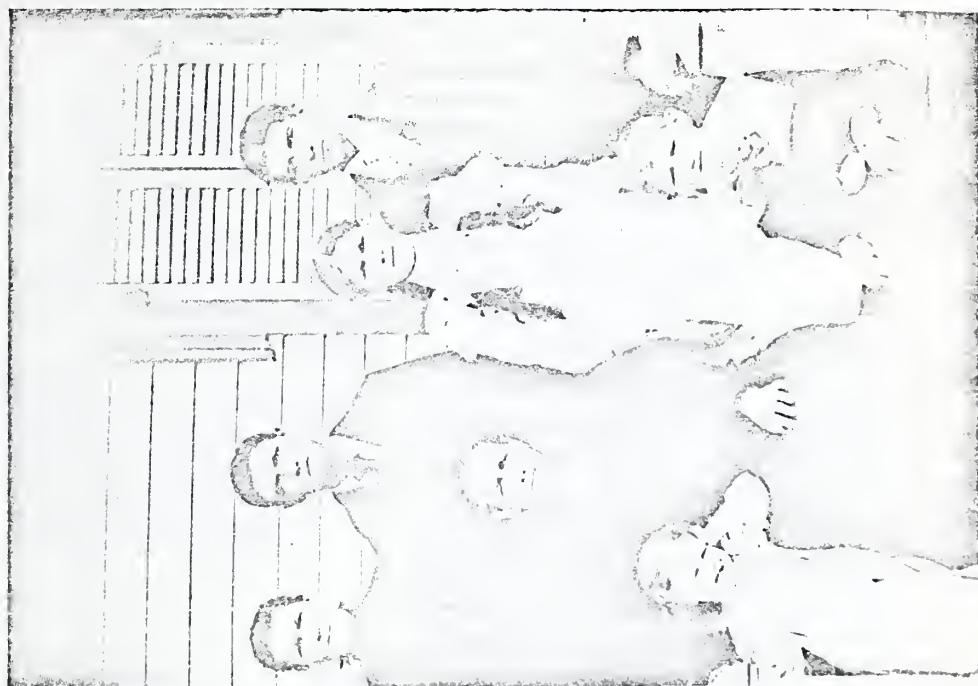
Mr. Chambers was united in marriage with Ada E. Roberts, who is a daughter of John Roberts, one of the substantial farmers of Van Wert County. She is also a native of Knox County, and accompanied her parents to Van

Wert County when a child of five years. Mr. and Mrs. Chambers have seven children, as follows: Walter Curtis, married, who is a farmer of Pleasant township; Daisy, the wife of Frank Huffine, who resides in Van Wert; Olive, at home; Louis, married, who resides on the home place; John R., single, who also resides on the old homestead; Hal and William.

Mr. Chambers is affiliated with the Republican party and has always taken a good citizen's interest in township and county affairs. The county commissioners are selected from a body of substantial, reliable and representative citizens, and Mr. Chambers has been a member of this board since 1904. Fraternally he is a Mason.

GEORGE W. GRIMM, one of the oldest and best known citizens of Van Wert County, settled on a tract of 80 acres in section 18, Ridge township, about 35 years ago, and has since been identified with the farming interests of that community. He is a son of Andrew and Annie (Reisley) Grimm, both natives of Stark County, Ohio, where George W. was born March 22, 1842. At the age of 19 years he located in Jefferson County, Ohio, which was his home until he came to Van Wert County, in 1871. Upon first locating here, Mr. Grimm operated a sawmill and later devoted himself to farming, his success in that line making him one of the leading agriculturists in the township.

On October 11, 1866, occurred the marriage of George W. Grimm and Sarah J. Wallace of Jefferson County. Mrs. Grimm is a daughter of Hugh and Martha (Stone) Wallace, the former a native of Jefferson County, and the latter, of Maryland. His wife is



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM SCHUMM AND FAMILY

consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of Van Wert, and a lady of high Christian character; Mr. Grimm himself being identified with the Evangelical Association of this city, in which he has held a number of offices. To this worthy couple five children have been born, as follows: Cora J., wife of R. A. Arnold of Defiance County, Ohio; Anna L., deceased; Bertha L., who is living at home; John C., a resident of Washington township; and Chalmer, also residing at home. Mr. Grimm is an active worker in the Grange, having held numerous offices in that body—any movement which has as its object the good of the agricultural element being sure of his sympathy and support.



WILLIAM SCHUMM, a worthy member of one of the old and substantial families of Willshire township, resides on his well-improved homestead of 100 acres, in section 26, and is a son of Frederick and Magdalena (Meyer) Schumm, being born on an adjacent farm September 16, 1840. The father was a native of Rupercoven, Wurtemberg, Germany, born April 24, 1814, and in 1833 accompanied his father, John Schumm, to America, settling in Holmes County Ohio. He purchased a farm there and conducted it for five years, after which he came to Van Wert County with his father, who entered 800 acres of land, and gave each of his five children a quarter section. Frederick Schumm was a hard-working man and made considerable progress in clearing up his property, which he later traded to his brother-in-law, buying the property situated in section 26, adjoining on the north the tract now occupied by his son, William. On that he resided until his death on August 6,

1902. Being naturally an accumulative man and assisted in his thrift by a very capable wife, he one time owned 500 acres of land, and possessed ample means to have increased his acreage to 1,000, had he so desired. He gave but slight attention to matters outside of his farming, with the exception of religious affairs, being for years one of the pillars of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Frederick Schumm's wife, formerly Magdalena Meyer, was born in Germany and came to the United States when she was eight years old, her parents settling in Philadelphia. As her parents were poor, she entered the employ of a French baker, and when he removed his business to Holmes County, Ohio, she accompanied the family. There she met Frederick Schumm, who was also in the employ of the Frenchman, and later they were married. The wife lived until the spring of 1897, dying at the age of 78 years, the mother of 12 children, namely: A child who died in infancy; William, of this sketch; John, who died soon after his removal to Memphis, Tennessee; Frederick, of Black Creek, Mercer County, Ohio; Katherine (Stamm), of Pittsburg, Kansas; Jacob, who died aged 14 years; Hannah (Zimmerman), of Chicago; Mary (Zimmerman), of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Louis, of Van Wert; George F., of Grand Rapids, Michigan; Barbara, single, who remained with her parents until they died, and now lives at Fort Wayne, Indiana; Henry M., of Colorado; and Ferdinand G. C., minister of a Lutheran Church in New York City.

When he was 18 years old, William Schumm began to learn the carpenter's trade and also assisted on the home farm until he was 23 years of age, when he started out as an independent workman and was employed at his trade until 1860. As soon as his sons became old enough, he placed the operation of the

farm in their hands and continued to work at his trade, but has been practically retired since the year above named. Since 1891 he has owned his present farm of 100 acres and has all but 15 acres of it under fine cultivation. A very comfortable modern home has taken the place of the little shanty which stood on the land when he came here, and he has erected a number of other substantial structures for housing his stock and grain. Through careful cultivation his land is very productive and yields him ample returns.

In 1874 William Schumm was married to Maria Heffner, who was born in Mercer County, Ohio, December 7, 1855, and is a daughter of George and Sophia (Martin) Heffner, natives of Germany. They have a happy, healthy and prosperous family of 10 children, the circle never having been broken by death, the following being a brief record of its members: Amelia, wife of William A. Koch, of West Cairo, Ohio; Hugo H. and Otto G. (twins), both of Chicago; Rudolph Alexander, of Jackson, Michigan; Theodore, of Black Creek township, Mercer County; Conrad A., of Harrison township, Van Wert County; Bertha O., wife of H. W. Garrison, of Marion, Ohio, and Paul E., Oscar and Julia, all at home.

Politically Mr. Schumm has been a lifelong Democrat, but takes only the interest of a citizen who desires good men in office. He is a member of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church, of which his father was one of the founders. As one of the faithful religious pioneers of his section, he can remember the little log cabin church, which was built 60 years ago, but which has long since given place to a substantial edifice. All the Schumms are consistent in both their religious sentiments, and their political sympathies, all being Democrats and all Lutherans, and no family of this

township is held in higher esteem. A group picture of the family of Mr. and Mrs. William Schumm accompanies this sketch.



ROBERT C. FLEMMING, M. D., coroner of Van Wert County and one of the leading physicians and surgeons of Van Wert, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in March, 1877, and is a son of Robert and Cornelia (Peeples) Flemming, his father being a contractor of Cincinnati.

Dr. Flemming was educated along literary lines in the schools of his native State, and after a thorough course of professional preliminary reading, entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Baltimore, Maryland, where he was graduated in 1900. During 1900-01 he was a member of the hospital staff of the City Hospital of Baltimore and subsequently took post-graduate courses, first in New York and later in Berlin. He settled in Van Wert in 1902, and since 1903 he has been county coroner. Dr. Flemming is the senior member of the firm of Flemming & Church, physicians and surgeons, whose well appointed offices are to be found in the Home Guards Temple, Van Wert. He is house physician of the Marsh Hotel, of this city, and is a member of the Van Wert Medical Society. He keeps thoroughly informed and in close touch with all the professional organizations of the country and is a progressive member of his calling. In politics he is a Republican; in 1903 was appointed to fill the unexpired term as coroner; in 1904 he was his party's choice for that office and was elected for a term of two years. Religiously he is a Presbyterian. He is thoroughly educated and he possesses those strong and sterling characteristics that win attention from

thoughtful and observant people. Fraternally Dr. Fleming belongs to a number of the leading societies, being a Mason, an Elk, Eagle and Knight of Pythias.

JOHAN S. GOEBEL, a prosperous agriculturist of Washington township, residing on his fine farm of 77 acres, located in section 22, was born in Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio, September 12, 1853. He is a son of Joseph and Kundigunda (Foxenburg) Goebel; his parents both being natives of Germany, where they were reared and married. They emigrated to America in 1844 and located in East Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio. Here they lived for nine years and in November, 1853, removed to Van Wert County. After selling nine lots which he owned in East Findlay, he took the money and purchased a farm of 80 acres in Washington township, for which he paid \$600—this being considered a very high price in those days. During the summer of 1853 he had built a cabin of round logs on the farm, and on November 2nd permanently located there. The family occupied this cabin for nearly 30 years. Mr. and Mrs. Goebel had six children: Casper, who lives in Marion township, Allen County, Ohio; Mary, wife of George Sendelbach of Washington township; Joseph, Jr., now deceased; Frances; who married John Sharp and is now deceased; and Caroline, who is unmarried and lives with John S.

John S. Goebel was raised on his father's farm in Washington township, assisting his father in clearing the land and making many improvements on the place, and individually obtaining such an education as the schools of that locality afforded. His independent career

as a farmer has been continuous and successful.

On October 8, 1874, Mr. Goebel was married to Gertrude Morkoetter, a daughter of Balse and Mary Morkoetter, both natives of Germany, who were among the early settlers and tax-payers of Washington township, having located there in 1845. Mr. and Mrs. Goebel have had 12 children, nine of whom are still living, namely: Mary, wife of John Scherger of Delphos, who has two children—Leona and Ruth; Frances, who married (first) Jacob Frederick and became the mother of one child—Gertrude—and after Mr. Frederick's death, the wife of Robert Fosnought, by whom she had one child—Marie; Lena, wife of Frank Depinet, who had two children—Albine and Josephine; Josephine, Eleanor, Martha, Henrietta and Agnes, all unmarried; and Joseph, Jr. Elizabeth, Johnnie and Anthony are the deceased children. The family are all members of St. John's Catholic Church at Delphos.

C CLARK, of the firm of James Clark & Son, leading shoe dealers, located at No. 102 West Main street, Van Wert, stands as one of the city's representative business men. He was born February 9, 1853, at Van Wert, and this city has been his life-long place of residence. He is a son of James and Annie W. (Wilson) Clark.

Mr. Clark belongs to one of Van Wert's old families, his grandfather, Samuel McKnight Clark, coming to Van Wert in 1838, opening the first blacksmith shop and gun store here and also conducting a hotel. His establishment was located on the corner of Main and Washington streets. Samuel M. Clark

married Lydia Daugherty, and their children were: John W., William A., James, Steward B., Reuben, Margaret and Samuel.

James Clark, father of C. C., was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, April 30, 1832, and died at Van Wert, January 31, 1904. He accompanied his parents hither in 1838, and in 1852 founded the present shoe business conducted by his son. The elder Clark was identified with this line from the age of 15 years until his death, his older brother, William A., having taken him into his employ at that early age. James subsequently bought his brother's interest. Later he admitted C. P. Richey to partnership, and the firm style was Clark & Richey until 1875, when Mr. Richey sold his interest to his son, G. W. Richey and to C. C. Clark, the son of the senior partner. For one year the firm name was Clark, Richey & Company, when C. C. Clark purchased Mr. Richey's interest and the present firm name was adopted. Our subject's mother now has an interest in the business.

The late James Clark was more or less prominent in political life for many years, serving efficiently in various township offices. When 18 years of age he married Annie W. Wilson, who was reared in Shelby County, Ohio. The children born to them were as follows: C. C.; Kate, wife of E. J. Pennypacker, of Virginia; Emma, wife of Judge A. A. Frazer, of Zanesville, Ohio; John O., a commercial traveler; Lucy, who died aged 14 years; and Horace W., who is a clerk in the employ of our subject.

When about 16 years of age C. C. Clark completed his course in the public schools of Van Wert, and then went on the bench in his father's shop. After learning the practical part of the manufacturing business, he became a clerk for his father and later a partner, when he was given the entire management of the establishment. The business has been conducted

at the same stand for over 30 years and "Clark's Shoe Store" is one of the landmarks of the city. For some years Mr. Clark has been a member of the Board of Education, and at the recent election was chosen clerk of that body. Politically he is a Republican.

In 1876 Mr. Clark was united in marriage with Frances Major, who was born in Van Wert County, and is a daughter of Willis and Martha J. Major. They have three children, viz: Mamie, wife of E. E. Scott, a postal clerk at Van Wert; Vesta, who lives at home; and Ralph R., who assists his father in the store. With his family, Mr. Clark worships at the English Lutheran Church, while his fraternal connections are with the Knights of Pythias, the Home Guards of America and the Royal Arcanum.

JOHN SHIRACK owns and operates a very productive and well-improved farm of 80 acres, 40 acres of which are situated in section 2, Washington township, and the remaining 40 acres directly across the road from his residence in section 35, Monterey township, Putnam County, Ohio. He was born in Prussia, Germany, June 24, 1840, and was a son of Anthony and Catherine Shirack.

When only five years of age John Shirack came to America in a sailing vessel with his parents, the family first settling in Hancock County, Ohio, on a farm of 80 acres, where they lived for two years and in which locality our subject received his early schooling. When he was about 12 years of age his parents sold their farm in Hancock County and purchased a homestead of 120 acres in Seneca County, Ohio, where he completed his education. In 1859 his father sold his farm in Seneca County




SAMUEL B. HERTZ



MRS. ELLEN R. HERTZ

and settled on a farm of 240 acres on the banks of the Little Auglaize River, part of which is now occupied by our subject. His mother died in Hancock County when he was 10 years old, his father passing away in Washington township.

On May 3, 1864, John Shirack was married at Ottoville, Putnam County, to Catherine Schulien, daughter of Matthias and Mary (Petty) Schulien. Mrs. Shirack was also born in Prussia, and when four years of age came to America with her parents. They first settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, and in 1857 moved to Putnam County, where they passed the remainder of their days. Immediately after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Shirack moved into the house which is still occupied by them. They have had nine children; John M.; Mrs. Mary Grubenhoff; Mrs. Katie Eichold; Mrs. Tillie Droll; Anna (Mrs. Henry Kehres); Mrs. Emma Sheibley; Mrs. Maggie Wannemacher; Joseph, who married Anna Schneider and has one child—Maletius; and Charles, who died an infant. The family are all members of the Catholic Church, at Ottoville.

AMUEL B. HERTZ, of Van Wert, has recently retired from business after more than 40 years spent here as a hardware merchant; his reputation for honesty and integrity has grown with the years, until he is one of the most highly esteemed, as well as popular, citizens of the city. Mr. Hertz was born near Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, August 3, 1832, and is of German descent, his paternal great-grandparents being emigrants from the Fatherland. His immediate ancestors were John and Mary (Keim) Hertz, both natives of Pennsylvania, for many years being farmers in that State.

and finally removing to Van Wert where they died, both having reached the advanced age of 85 years. Of their children, seven grew to adult years, namely: Uriah Washington, a prominent physician, who died in California in 1890; Joseph J., a farmer residing south of Van Wert; Samuel B., the subject of this article; Eve Ann (Heinley), who resides in Lyons, Kansas; Mary B. (Specht), a resident of Pennsylvania until her death about a year ago; Lydia C. (Spangler), deceased; and John L., a resident of St. Paul, Minnesota.

Samuel B. Hertz remained in Pennsylvania during the first 30 years of his life, part of the time as an agriculturist, and the last nine years of that period engaged in teaching school. On January 1, 1863, he moved to Van Wert, where he has been an honored citizen ever since. In company with his brother, U. W., he started the hardware store of Hertz Brothers, which they conducted together for about three years, when our subject purchased his brother's interest and from that time carried on the establishment alone until 1902, when he disposed of the stock and retired from active business life. Some two years later he also sold the building which was situated on Main street, and which is now being replaced by a handsome business block.

On October 4, 1855, Mr. Hertz was married to Ellen R. Rank, who was born January 18, 1837, in Union County, Pennsylvania, being a daughter of Jonathan and Mary Ann (Dieffenderfer) Rank, both of whom were also natives of Pennsylvania. Their family consists of an adopted daughter, Edna, who married William B. Trout and resides with Mr. and Mrs. Hertz. The family residence, a view of which appears in the historical department of this work, is among the most attractive in the city, and was erected, in 1860, on the site of the old house, which was built by Mr. Hertz

and occupied by him for 28 years. While he is a Republican, he has persistently refused to allow his name to be used for office. A member of the English Lutheran Church, he has held almost every office in the organization, having been elder, deacon, trustee, a member of the building committee, etc. He is also a member of Van Wert Lodge, No. 261, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having joined the fraternity over 40 years ago and passed all its chairs. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Hertz accompany this sketch.

JOHN CRAMER, who in life was one of the prominent and highly esteemed citizens of this county, was born in York County, Pennsylvania, October 9, 1821, and died at Van Wert, November 11, 1905. He was a son of John Cramer and a grandson of Helfar Cramer—the latter being the founder of the family in America. Helfar Cramer, who was a native of Germany, came to the colonies prior to the Revolutionary War and joined the patriot army. After the close of the war, he settled in York County, Pennsylvania, where he left a family of seven children. One son, John Cramer, was born in York County, in 1792. In 1816 he married Catherine Schlote, also of Pennsylvania and of German extraction, and they had nine children, namely: Daniel and Henry, both of Fostoria, Ohio; John; Mary, deceased; Emanuel, of Ionia, Michigan; Adam, of Fostoria, Ohio; Sophia, wife of P. Wickersham, of Seneca County, Ohio; Sarah, wife of Augustus Elliott, and Levi, long since deceased.

In 1840, John Cramer, father of our subject, came to Ohio and settled on a farm in Seneca County, on which he died June 20, 1856; his wife having passed away September

16, 1854. They were worthy members of the German Lutheran Church. Politically Mr. Cramer was a Democrat, and during the War of 1812 he served in the United States forces, with the rank of captain.

John Cramer, the immediate subject of this sketch, was 18 years of age when the family settled in Seneca County, Ohio, where until 1847 his time was occupied as a farmer and a workman in a sawmill. He was married about this time and afterward bought 80 acres of land in the same county (Seneca) and lived there until 1864, when he moved to Van Wert County, buying his homestead farm of 120 acres in Pleasant township. Previous to his death, he disposed of a portion of this tract, and in all probability the farm will shortly become a part of the city of Van Wert, its location being favorable for a residence district.

John Cramer was married in Seneca County, Ohio, on December 29, 1847, to Ann E. Shaffner, who was born in Crawford County, Ohio, September 17, 1830, and died at Van Wert, March 28, 1901. She was a daughter of Martin and Ann E. (Wert) Shaffner.

Martin Shaffner, Mrs. Cramer's father, was born in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, February 27, 1795, and was a son of Martin and Frances (Halder) Shaffner. For many years Martin Shaffner, Sr., lived in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, and then moved to Dauphin County, where both he and his wife died. They had nine children—Jacob, Nancy, Martin, Henry, Frederick, John Christian, Frances and Elizabeth. The son Martin was married in Dauphin County, to Ann E. Wert, and they were the parents of Levi, John F. and Ann F. Martin Shaffner and wife settled in Crawford County, Ohio, in 1820, and there the mother died September 23, 1831. The father of Mrs. Cramer died September 17, 1870. For many

years both he and his wife had been consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The children of John Cramer and wife were 9 in number, as follows: John W. and William J., both deceased; Sarah C., wife of John W. Balyeat, who lives in Middlebury, Indiana; Frank A. and Ralph W., both residents of Van Wert; Irene H., who is the wife of J. W. Kensler, of Ridge township; Anna E., who resides with her sister Irene H.; Martin S., a resident of Ohio City; and Charles B., who is a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, stationed at Spencerville, Ohio.

In his political views Mr. Cramer was a Prohibitionist, and in religion, a Methodist. He was a man of high personal character, widely known for his integrity, and trained his children to be good men and women, one of the deep satisfactions of his life being that they followed the example set by their parents and early united with the church. During his long residence in the county, Mr. Cramer became well and favorably known to the general community. He gave practical encouragement to agricultural development and was instrumental in founding the grange in his locality, of which he was the treasurer for 14 years.

GEORGE H. STETLER, who is serving his second term as township trustee of Willshire township, resides on his fine farm of 172 acres, situated in sections 33 and 34. He was born in Black Creek township, Mercer County, Ohio, August 19, 1855, and is a son of Alfred and Matilda L. (Detmer) Stetler.

Jacob Stetler, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, and came to this section of the State with three brothers, George, John and Daniel, all securing

large tracts of farming land. They were of Pennsylvania Dutch extraction. Alfred Stetler, father of George H., was born about one-quarter mile from our subject's farm, in Mercer County. He died here aged 36 years, from typhoid fever. He married Matilda L. Detmer, who was born in Germany and accompanied her parents to the United States. Her father, George A. Detmer, served three terms as auditor of Mercer County, and E. J. Detmer, her grandfather, did a great deal of surveying here in the early days. Alfred Stetler and wife had four children, namely: George H., of this sketch; Augustus, of Mercer County; Mahala (Huffman), of Rockford, Ohio; and Nancy (Hileman), also of Rockford.

George H. Stetler remained on the farm on which he was born until he was 18 years old, when his parents came to his present farm, on which he has lived ever since. He has 80 acres of the old homestead farm and 92 additional acres, which he subsequently purchased. The father built a very fine residence and our subject has erected substantial barns and other buildings. He has done the greater part of the clearing on his 92 acres and the whole property is well improved. Mr. Stetler is a practical farmer and he is also a public-spirited citizen. He has given his attention to all movements which he has found to meet his approval, in regard to the public welfare, and he assisted in building some 20 miles of the turnpike road. Mr. Stetler no longer carries on large agricultural operations, as his land is proving more valuable in other ways. He has leased the whole of it to the Baldwin Oil Company, and six oil and gas wells are now in active operation here. In his own home the gas is used for light and heat.

On August 25, 1881, Mr. Stetler was married to Clara Hileman, who was born in Van Wert County, and is a daughter of John A.

and Annie Hileman, natives of Wayne County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Stetler have these children: Oscar, Ollie, Ray, Roy, Annis and Gale. The family belongs to the United Brethren Church of Black Creek township, Mercer County, in which Mr. Stetler is a trustee.

Politically our subject is an influential Democratic leader in this locality. For the past 28 years he has been constantly in office, called to different positions of trust by his fellow-citizens, who have thus shown their esteem and confidence. He has been supervisor, has held various school offices and for seven consecutive years has been one of the township trustees.

HENRY J. WIECHART, whose farm is located in section 34, Hoaglintownship, was born in Van Wert County, June 6, 1861, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Trentman) Wiechart, who were among the earliest settlers of the county. Both were natives of Germany, the father coming to America at the age of 15 and living for a time in Cincinnati. He soon after came to Van Wert County and entered 80 acres of land in Washington township from the government. Here he resided until his death in 1891. His wife came to America when a child, her parents being the second family to settle in Washington township. Their home was about two miles from Delphos, and the sturdy, thrifty farmers of that section to-day are composed largely of their descendants. Mrs. Wiechart is now 67 years old and still resides on the Wiechart homestead. She is a lady of strong personality and is surrounded by a host of warm friends. Eight children are living, all of whom reside in Washington township except Henry J. and Theo-

dore F., who lives in Dubuque, Iowa; their names are as follows: Mary E., Henry J., Ferdiand A., Frank T., Benjamin, Theodore F., Agnes and Gregora.

Mr. Wiechart has spent his entire life in Van Wert County and is to-day one of our most estimable citizens. He received his education in the schools of Delphos and has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. With the assistance of his good wife, he has provided well for old age. He was married October 13, 1886, to Winifred A. Clark, who was born in Madison County, Ohio, February 27, 1862, and is a daughter of Daniel and Margaret (Driscoll) Clark. Here parents came from Ireland in their youth and were married in Cincinnati. After living there a short time, they went to Madison County and later came to Van Wert, settling in section 35, Hoaglin township. The father died soon after locating here and the mother died in 1896. Their children were as follows: Elizabeth J., of Van Wert; Battle, a prominent physician of New Haven, Indiana; John J., of Van Wert; Winifred A. (Mrs. Wiechart); Charles S., and Dennis D., both medical practitioners of Decatur, Indiana; and Andrew J., a student in Rush Medical College, Chicago. Mrs. Wiechart was a teacher in the schools of Van Wert County for more than 10 years previous to her marriage. She began her work in this line at the age of 14 years, after attending the schools in Hoaglin township and taking a course in the Ohio Normal University at Ada. Her union with Mr. Wiechart resulted in the birth of two daughters—Elizabeth E., born April 29, 1889, and Nellie M., born April 19, 1893. Mr. and Mrs. Wiechart are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church, of Van Wert. Mr. Wiechart is a Democrat, and served three years as school director in sub-district No. 2.

JACOB BIENZ, one of Willshire's old and honored pioneer citizens, has spent 55 years on his present farm, which now consists of 113 acres, situated in sections 15 and 22. He was born at Wittenberg, about five miles from Stuttgart, Germany, on April 1, 1825, and is a son of Baldas and Catherine (Weidley) Bienz.

Baldas Bienz, the father, was born also at Wittenberg and died in Tully township, Van Wert County, Ohio, aged 65 years. The mother lived to be 85 years old, and died at the home of our subject. These worthy people had 12 children. One of the family died in Europe, six accompanied the parents to the United States, and the others were born in America. Their names were: Baldas, George, Catherine, John, Jacob, Barbara, Christian, all born in Europe; Fred, Margaret, Mary, Ann and Philip, born in the United States. The last named, who is now a veteran of the Civil War, now resides in Liberty township. In his first enlistment he was seriously wounded at Pittsburg Landing; but after his recovery he reenlisted and served until the close of the war.

Our subject was too young to recall the long voyage his parents took, in 1831, in a sailing vessel from Havre-de-Grace to Philadelphia, 64 days being spent on the water. From Philadelphia teams were engaged to take the family to Columbiana County, Ohio, their destination, where they landed, weary and foot-sore, having had to walk a great part of the distance across Pennsylvania. They remained there until the spring of 1832 when they moved into Tuscarawas County, and for two years the father and three older sons mined iron ore. In 1834 they removed to Richland County, and the father took a six-year lease on a farm. Soon after, he sent his eldest son to Van Wert County to enter a piece of land,

and the latter secured 80 acres in Tully township on the present site of Dixon. When all arrangements had been completed, the family settled here in 1839, made many improvements and on this farm the father died.

Jacob Bienz remained at home until his majority, and then worked by the month, mainly at clearing land which was then wild and with but few attempts at improvement. In the meantime he attended a German school. When he had accumulated enough capital, he bought 80 acres of his present farm, on which not a stick had been cut. Here, in the wilderness, he felled the trees himself and erected a log cabin 18 by 20 feet in dimensions, to which he brought his bride. Game was plentiful, but there were many hardships to endure. The Indians were friendly, and as Mr. Bienz treated them kindly, he never suffered either from their anger or cupidity. Mr. Bienz paid the sum of \$325 for his first 80 acres of land; but its present value is so far beyond that that we venture no valuation, for it is one of the best farms of the township. It is well-improved and is now operated by our subject's oldest granddaughter's husband.

Mr. Bienz was married on August 21, 1850, to Elizabeth Pflueger who was born July 30, 1835, in Holmes County, Ohio, and came to Van Wert County when eight years old, accompanying her parents, who were Christian and Barbara Pflueger, natives of Wittenberg. Mr. and Mrs. Bienz have eight children, namely: Louis, of Indianapolis, whose one daughter, Volina, was married on her grandfather's "Golden wedding" anniversary, to Charles H. Kruckeberg; Margaret (Schmidt), of Joliet, Illinois; George, of Pleasant township; Adam, of Indiana; Fred, of Indiana; Mary, widow of John Rheinking, of Indiana; Annie (Mrs. William Schamelo), of Indiana; and Emma, who died aged 18 months. Four of

the children live in Adams County, Indiana. Mr. Bienz has two great-grandchildren in his home.

Mr. Blenz has been a life-long Democrat, but has taken no very active interest in politics, giving the greater part of his attention to the development of his farm and to providing for his family. He is one of the leading members of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church. He owes his ample means and comfortable surroundings to his own industry and perseverance, having always been a hard-working, careful and frugal man. In the evening of life he can look back over years well spent.

ELIAS F. RINGWALD, one of the substantial farmers and representative men of Washington township, who is engaged in cultivating his valuable farm of 96 acres situated in section 31, was born in Jennings township, Van Wert County, April 28, 1858, and is a son of Gottlieb and Elizabeth (Wolford) Ringwald.

The father was born in Germany, and in 1852, when 21 years of age, came to this country with his parents, settling on a farm in Jennings township. In 1853 he was married to Elizabeth Wolford, daughter of Adam and Barabara Wolford. His wife was a native of Pennsylvania and when seven years old came with her parents to Knox County, where she lived for three years, her parents removing to Van Wert County in 1840. Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Ringwald had the following six children: Barabara, who married Jacob Distler, of Van Wert County and has had five children—Emily Elizabeth (deceased in infancy), John Frederick (a teacher in the Summerset school in Washington township), William Henry (intermarried with Josie Sterling), Noah Jacob

and Martha Senora (wife of John L. Good and the mother of one child—Harold Lee); John G., who married Anna Eliza Dolbey and has 10 children; Sarah Jane (Mrs. N. R. Pollock), who died in 1898, leaving six children; Mary Magdalene, who died aged four years; William F., who married Stella Shaner and lives on the old home farm, the father of six children—Floyd, Anna, Hazel, May (deceased), Clarence, Delta, Myrtle and Elias F. Gottlieb Ringwald, the father, died in 1894; his wife still lives on the home place.

Elias F. Ringwald, subject of this sketch, has passed his life in Van Wert County. Here he was reared and educated, and has always been engaged in agricultural pursuits, operating one of the most productive and well improved farms in the county. He and his brother operate threshing machines and also own and manage a portable sawmill.

BENJAMIN B. TEEPLE, superintendent of the large grain and stock farm of George H. Marsh, of Van Wert, is a native of Adams County, Indiana, where he was born to John E. and Catherine (Smith) Teeple, on January 5, 1867. His parents are still residents of Adams County, where the father has lived since early childhood and where the mother was born, their ages being 75 and 72 years, respectively.

Benjamin B. Teeple acquired his education in the public schools and for a short time engaged in teaching in his home county; but he was intended for a farmer, and from his youth has taken a deep interest in all that pertains to agriculture. When 16 years of age he began buying and selling live stock and now possesses a practical knowledge of the business.



MR. AND MRS. FREDERIC J. HOELDERLE AND FAMILY

which is seldom equaled. After dealing in stock for several years in Adams County, in 1893 he came to Van Wert County, Ohio, and bought a farm in Willshire township. There he engaged both in farming and the stock business, soon becoming known as one of the best posted, most reliable stockmen in this section of the State. Mr. Marsh heard of him and, wanting a competent man to take charge of his large farm of 1,300 acres, decided to engage the services of Mr. Teeple, and in 1899 installed that gentleman as superintendent of his large estate. General farming and stock-raising are here carried on and the results of the present management have been so satisfactory as to reflect great credit upon Mr. Teeple's judgment, practical knowledge and executive ability.

Benjamin B. Teeple was married September 25, 1887, to Amanda Green, of Crawford County, Ohio, her parents being John and Mary (Hilderbrand) Green—the former a resident of Decatur, Indiana, and the latter, deceased. Mr. Teeple is a Republican, but has been too busy attending to his private affairs to take part in politics, although he keeps well informed on current events and is thoroughly up-to-date on all public questions. He is a member of Abanaki Tent, Improved Order of Red Men, of Van Wert, and is one of the most thorough and successful business men in the county.



FREDERIC J. HOELDERLE, who is engaged in farming in Washington township, near the city of Delphos, was born in Peru, Huron County, Ohio, May 1, 1874, and is a son of Joseph and Caroline (Kappus) Hoelderle.

Joseph Hoelderle, who is now employed as sexton at the Church of St. John the Evange-

list at Delphos, after a life given to the vocation of teacher and musician, was born October 12, 1841, in the vicinity of Engen, Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, not far from the Swiss frontiers. He came to the United States in December, 1868. On May 23, 1871, at New Washington, Crawford County, Ohio, he was married to Caroline Elizabeth Kappus, who was born June 22, 1853, in Huron County, Ohio, and died February 16, 1880, at New Washington, Crawford County, Ohio. The children of this marriage were three in number, viz.: Charles Andrew, now living in Delphos, who married Agnes Wassman, and has three children—Arthur, Mandolin and Carl; Frederic Joseph, the subject of this sketch; and Frances Lonisa, wife of Bert Detmer of Cincinnati, and the mother of two children—Norval and Ruth. Joseph Hoelderle was married on November 21, 1881, to his second wife, Theresia Catherina Myers, who was born April 30, 1860, in Shelby County, Ohio. Eight children were born to this union, of whom five are now living, namely: Mary Carolina, who married William Wahmloff, lives on a farm near Delphos and has two children—Carl and Adelina; and Mary Cecelia, Edmont Henry, Stella Herberta and Clarence, Herbert who are still living at home. Those deceased are: Adela Catherina, who died at the age of 10 years; and Wilhelm A. and Herbert Raymond, who died in infancy.

The mother of our subject died when he was a child of five years. He was given a good, practical education and took up farming as an occupation. His farm in Washington township is well cared for and is considered an excellent property. Mr. Hoelderle stands well in the community, bearing an excellent reputation for solid integrity and worth. He is a member of the Catholic Knights of America, being vice-president of the Delphos branch of the order. He takes an active interest in educational

matters and is at present serving on the School Board of Washington township.

On April 21, 1897, Frederic Joseph Hoelderle was married to Mrs. Mary Johanna (Bloemer) Goedde, a lady well and favorably known throughout Washington and adjoining townships. She was born in Germany in 1866 and was a child of three years when her parents, Barney and Josephine (Kankle) Bloemer, came to America.

The Bloemer family were large land-owners in the Fatherland, where they occupied a prominent place and they brought with them to their new home the same sturdy, thrifty characteristics that generally mark those of German birth and parentage. Barney Bloemer in his younger days was a sailor for 16 years and served three years in the German Army. Coming to Putnam County, Ohio, the family located in Glandorf and later moved to Fort Jennings where they still live. There were eight children in the family, of whom the following three are deceased: Mary Johanna (1), Bennie and Emma. Those living are: Mary Johanna (2), Mary, Elizabeth, Annie and Christine. Mary married Frank Hermler, of Ottawa, Ohio, and is the mother of three children—Eddie, Emma and Frank. Elizabeth became the wife of Teuben Frayhn, of Dayton, Ohio, and has one child—Josephine. Annie married Joseph Utrup, of Washington township, Van Wert County, and has two sons—Benjamin and Edward. Christine married John Loepolt, of Glandorf, and has three sons—Edwin, Clarence and Benjamin.

Mary Johanna Bloemer, the second of the name in the family, was educated in Glandorf where she grew to womanhood and where she married Henry Goedde. Two children were born to this marriage, namely: Mary Josephine Amelia, born August 1, 1888; and Harry B., born December 6, 1891, who is now attend-

ing school. A picture of Mr. and Mrs. Hoelderle and the son and daughter accompanies this sketch.

Among the many pleasant country residences of the county, there is none that will attract more favorable notice than the handsome modern brick residence of Mr. and Mrs. Hoelderle, erected in 1893, which occupies a very desirable site on their 80-acre farm in section 14, Washington township. It is well suited as a home of culture and refinement. A view of this residence is shown in the historical department of this work. They also own 24 acres in sections 2 and 3, Washington township.




DAVID W. McNALL, a highly respected citizen and one of the most substantial farmers of Washington township, this county, and the owner of a finely improved farm of 110 acres situated in section 17, was born in DeKalb County, Indiana, December 5, 1850, and is a son of William and Caroline (Zimmerman) McNall and the grandson of William McNall, Sr. The father was a native of Ireland, coming to America and locating in Richland County, Ohio, where he was engaged for many years in farming. William McNall moved to Indiana during his early manhood, making the journey on horseback and passing through Van Wert County, on his way thither. At that time there were only two houses in Van Wert County, and he refused an offer of 100 acres of land for \$80 in the region where Van Wert city is now located. He was married in Indiana to Caroline Zimmerman, and they had a family of eight children: Mrs. Almira Hawk of Akron, Ohio; Mrs. Sarah Cole, of Spencer, Indiana; John, of Fostoria, Ohio; and D. W. McNall, of this sketch—all living; and

George, who died aged two years; Elias, at 12 years of age; William, aged 21, and Mary Ann, at 19 years of age.

David W. McNall was reared and educated in DeKalb County, Indiana, and was married June 4, 1874, to Naomi Zimmermann, daughter of Abraham and Rebecca Zimmermann, of Van Wert. Mr. Zimmermann was one of the early settlers of Van Wert and one of the first contractors on the Pennsylvania Railroad, assisting in the construction of the road through Van Wert County. He is still living in Van Wert at the advanced age of 93 years.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. McNall lived in DeKalb County for two years, and in 1876 moved to Van Wert County, where they purchased a farm of 70 acres on which they still reside. In 1893 he purchased an additional 40 acres, and now has a fine farm of 110 acres. They have reared two children—Rolland Abraham, who was born July 22, 1878, and Goldie Princess, May 16, 1884. Mr. McNall's mother is still living and resides with her oldest daughter in Akron, Ohio. His father died in 1893 in DeKalb County, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. McNall are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Middlepoint. Fraternally he is a member of the I. O. O. F. lodge at Middlepoint.

HELCIAS SLENTZ. The thriving village of Monticello still has, as an honored, retired citizen, the man who once owned a large part of the ground on which its largest buildings stand. This citizen is C. Slentz, who was born in September, 1838, near Franklin Square, Columbiana County, Ohio, and is a son of Eli and Mary Ann (Shulenburg) Slentz.

The father of Mr. Slentz was born in

Pennsylvania. By trade he was a carpenter and cabinetmaker. In 1854 he settled in York township, Van Wert County, almost in a wilderness, and he followed his trade in this county all the rest of his life, dying in 1879. He was survived some 18 months by his wife. Of their 12 children, eight grew to maturity.

Our subject attended the schools of his day—and very primitive were the ones in the neighborhood of his home—until he was old enough to learn the carpenter's trade. In 1858 he started out for himself. About 1865 he came to Jennings township and bought the land on which stands the western portion of the town of Monticello, the place being given its name by his uncle, David Shulenburg. Mr. Slentz still owns 40 lots in Monticello, some of these having been improved with dwellings. He has seen and has assisted in the development of this place from the time when it was a home for deer and wild turkeys to its present position as an important grain center. He started a general store and was the first express agent. He served for 16 years as postmaster and for a long time was the principal handler of grain at this point.

Mr. Slentz has his property under rental, and resides in Monticello, on the east side, opposite the postoffice. His possessions include 74 acres in Jennings township. His first 80 acres cost him \$500, and to-day the property is worth \$120 an acre. The 30-acre tract south of the railroad, which is known as "Slentz Woods" has the finest hickory trees to be found in the township, and walnut trees which can scarcely be equaled. This land is very valuable, and Mr. Slentz has refused \$2,200 for the timber on it.

Mr. Slentz was married (first) in 1862 to Sarah Townsend, who was a sister of W. A. Townsend, of Jennings township. She died in February, 1890, leaving three children, viz:

Mary Jane, wife of Charles Hiser, of Michigan, and the mother of four children—Warren, Roscoe, Zora and Martin C.; Icem, who married Jennie Davis and has three children—Floyd, Denzel and Eunice; and Alvira, who married Samuel Heiss and has two children—Orlay and Homer. All the children were well educated and all became teachers except the youngest. In 1893 Mr. Slentz was married to Catherine Van Sweringen, who is a daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Shaffier) Van Sweringen, who came here in 1853 from Juniata County, Pennsylvania. The father of Mrs. Slentz settled in the woods in section 7, Jennings township, and she can remember how the wolves howled at night around their lonely log cabin. Of the family of eight children, Mrs. Slentz was the fourth born and seven still survive. She can recall many very interesting stories of pioneer days in Jennings township. She has been a member of the United Brethren Church at Monticello for many years. Mr. Slentz is a member of the Presbyterian Church in Auglaize County, and has been one of the elders since the completion of the new church. He has liberally helped both religious bodies, as he has assisted in the building of schoolhouses and in all else which has contributed to the general prosperity. In politics he is a Democrat, and in early days he served as township trustee. His present residence was the second house erected in the town. More extended notice of the founding of Monticello will be given in the historical portion of this work.



DAVIS JOHNSON, for many years one of the leading men of Van Wert, a member of one of the old pioneer families of this part of Ohio, and one of its first surveyors, was born June 17, 1814,

in Harrison County, Ohio, and died March 19, 1890, at his home on the corner of Main and Market streets, Van Wert. He was a son of Joseph and Mary (Davis) Johnson.

The Johnson family is of English extraction. Abel Johnson, the paternal grandfather of Davis Johnson, was born in England and was an infant when his father, Benjamin Johnson, emigrated with his family to America, in 1744. Abel Johnson was reared and educated in Philadelphia. He learned the cooper's trade, and was married there, in 1768, to Anna Alexander. Of their 15 children, 12 reached maturity. In 1782 he removed with his wife and children to Virginia (now West Virginia), and died in 1824.

Joseph Johnson, father of Davis Johnson, was reared a farmer and learned the cooper's trade, which in his day was a very profitable one. He remained in Virginia until after his marriage, when he removed to Harrison County, Ohio, where he subsequently entered 480 acres of land. He was the first white man to locate in that county, and his daughter Anna was the first white child born in Stock township. During the War of 1812 he was made adjutant of a regiment. In 1837 he came to Van Wert County, where he entered a large amount of land, his entire land holdings in Ohio at this time aggregating 2,160 acres. Here he became one of the first county commissioners, and in his official position assisted in the organization of the townships. He filled other offices of responsibility, and the records of the time show him to have been a man of good judgment and uncorruptible integrity. He died July 29, 1855. On April 12, 1806, he married Mary Davis, who was born January 3, 1783, in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, of Welsh parentage. They had 10 children, our subject being the fifth in order of birth.

Davis Johnson was reared and educated in Harrison County. His educational acquirements was sufficient to enable him successfully to teach school, to which profession he devoted some years. He also followed surveying, and thus assisted greatly in the original surveys of Van Wert County. His first marriage was in Harrison County; but his wife died after he had settled on a farm in Willshire township, Van Wert County, leaving a daughter, who subsequently married J. I. Cable, of Van Wert. After his home was thus broken up, he returned to his father's roof and lived there until 1856, when he removed to the town of Van Wert in order to assume the duties of county treasurer, to which office he had been elected. He was a man of keen business perception, and showed his foresight by investing extensively in land, which later became very valuable and enabled him to become financially well-to-do. In politics he was a Republican. In early life he joined the Masonic fraternity, and was one of the charter members of Van Wert Lodge.

In September, 1854, Davis Johnson married (second) Mrs. Susan A. Lennox, daughter of James and Jane Short, of Richland County, Ohio, and the widow of Dr. John Lennox, one of the pioneer physicians. The children of this union were: Mary Alice, deceased; Ella, residing at home; W. Scott, formerly deputy probate judge of Van Wert County; Brough, a farmer; Anna, wife of T. Tumbleson; Lorenzo, now at Seattle, Washington; and Charles. Emma C. and Abel, deceased.

In his religious belief, Davis Johnson was a Quaker, and his life was patterned in accordance with the precepts of this body. Mrs. Johnson still occupies the old family home in Van Wert. She is a member of the Presbyterian Church. All of the surviving children

are well settled in life and are esteemed members of society. One son, W. S. Johnson, who is now successfully engaged in the practice of the law in Van Wert, is one of the leading members of the bar and a very prominent citizen of both city and county.

PETER FELDNER, who resides on his fine farm of 100 acres, situated in section 12, Willshire township, is one of the solid citizens and industrious, intelligent and thrifty farmers of this locality. He was born in Breitenheim bei Meisenheim Begweirings bezirk Coblenz, Kingdom of Prussia, Germany, February 25, 1850, and is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Gehres) Feldner.

The parents of our subject spent their whole lives in the district where he was born, until the death of the mother; then the father came to America and spent his last 15 years with his children. These were: Katherine (Mohr), now of Germany; Jacob, of Van Wert; Elizabeth, of Germany; Phoebe (Gehres), of Germany; William, of Nevada; and Peter, the subject of this sketch. The venerable father died in 1894, aged 84 years, 6 months and 11 days.


Peter Feldner resided in his native land until he was 17 years of age, a strong, well-developed youth who had been in school from the age of six to 14 years, according to the excellent laws of his country. This law explains why America finds so few ignorant Germans among those who come to her shores in order to improve their material condition. The pioneer of the family was his older brother Jacob, who was established in Van Wert County. Peter left home on April 24, 1867, and landed in the city of New York on

the 10th of the following May. He went up the Hudson River to Albany and remained in that vicinity, working on farms, for three years, and then joined his brother in Harrison township, Van Wert County. He worked as a farmer by the day or month until his marriage. He then bought 80 acres in Pleasant township, which was partially cleared and was improved to the extent of a dwelling and barn. After living here six years he rented it and bought 80 acres in Adams County, Indiana, which he sold eight months later and returned to his Pleasant township farm, where he resided for two more years. Then Mr. Feldner sold both that farm and the one in Indiana, and bought 40 acres in section 2, Willshire township, which he also sold prior to purchasing his present farm on June 11, 1881. This property was only partly cleared when he purchased it, and he has finished the clearing and has made the numerous fine improvements. For a number of years he worked very industriously—clearing, ditching and improving his farm—before he succeeded in putting it under its present fine state of cultivation. He devoted his attention to a general line of farming and stockraising. His handsome brick residence is one of substantial comfort and all his surroundings and outbuildings show excellent management and a justifiable amount of pride in the making of a good home.

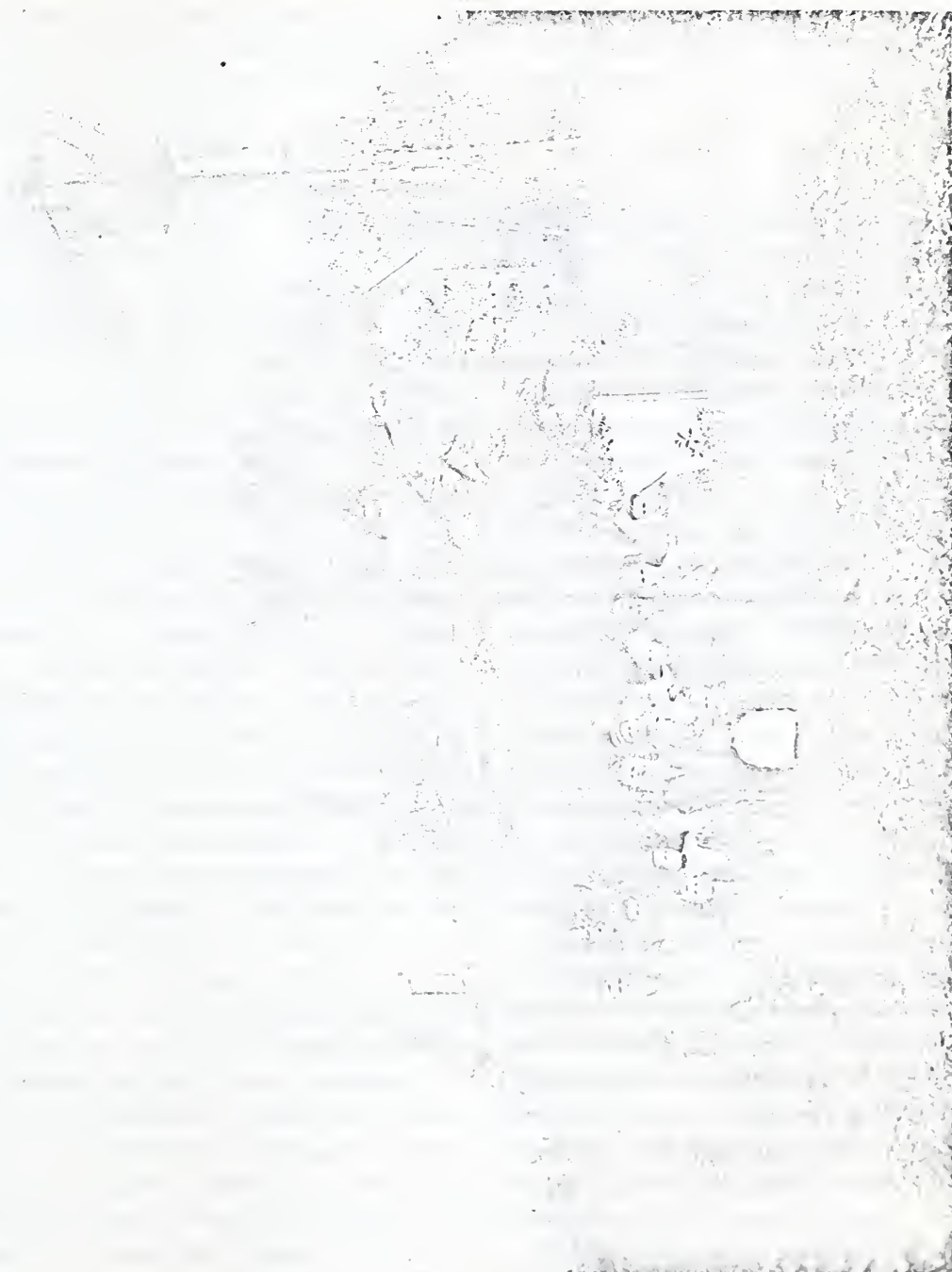
In September, 1872, Mr. Feldner was married to Anna Elizabeth Hunsinger, who was born at Bärweiler, in the same locality as our subject, on April 19, 1853, and is a daughter of Adam and Elizabeth Hunsinger. She came alone to America in April, 1872. Mr. and Mrs. Feldner have had these children: Emma (Mrs. Fred Kreisier), who left at death two sons—Arthur and Norman; Elizabeth (Mrs. Fred Lillick), of Willshire township, who has two sons—Paul and Arthur; Josephine (Mrs.

Martin Kreisier), of Harrison township, who has one daughter—Viola; Frederick Peter; Adolph, deceased; and Phoebe, Martin, and Nora and Dora (twins), who live at home.

Politically Mr. Feldner is a Democrat. He is a member of the Evangelical Church in Harrison township, in which he served two years as an elder. He is a well-known and universally respected man.

EORGE W. GRIFFITH resides on a farm of 80 acres in section 14, Hoaglin township, and has been an esteemed resident of Van Wert County since his early boyhood. He was born in Union County, Ohio, August 17, 1841, and is a son of Benjamin F. and Susan (Fausnaught) Griffith. The father was reared in the State of Maryland, although he was a Virginian by birth, while the mother was born and reared in Fairfield County, Ohio. When our subject was a small lad his parents moved to Van Wert County and settled in Harrison township, at that time there was a log jail and but few houses in the countyseat. Later they moved to Washington township, and in the spring of 1861 located in Pleasant township which was their home for many years. A brother of our subject, Benjamin F., and a sister, Lovina A. (Mrs. George Glosset), reside in Van Wert.

George W. Griffith enlisted on October 2, 1861, in Company F, 64th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., the same company in which his father served for 11 months, at the expiration of which time he (the father) was discharged on account of disability. Young Griffith received his honorable discharge December 15, 1864. He was detailed as teamster, and for the last 18 months of his time drove the wagon which carried the ammunition. He took part in the battles of



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE W. MICHAEL

Shiloh, Stone River, Murfreesboro, Perryville, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge; he was in the march to Atlanta and later from that point to Jonesboro. Returning to Van Wert County, George W. Griffith engaged in farming in Liberty township for a short time and then moved into Van Wert. Later he again took up farming, and about 1887 moved to Paulding County, where he cleared a virgin tract of 80 acres in section 14, Latty township, and carried on farming operations for about 14 years. In February, 1901, Mr. Griffith moved back to Van Wert County, taking up his residence on his present farm.

October 30, 1867, he was married to Sarah R. Tomlinson, who was born in York township, Van Wert County, July 11, 1848. She is a daughter of James and Nancy K. (Smith) Tomlinson and a granddaughter of James Smith, a pioneer of Mercer County, Ohio. Nancy Smith was born in Miami County about 77 years ago and went with her parents to Mercer county, where she was joined in marriage to James Tomlinson, since deceased, and later located in York township, Van Wert County. She now makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Griffith. Two sons and one daughter also reside in Van Wert County, viz.: Callista J., wife of Sylvanus Norris, of Van Wert; Lewis L., of Ohio City; and William S., of Liberty township. Of the children born to our subject and his wife, 11 survive, viz.: Annie E., wife of George Geiger, of Toledo; William E., of Cedar Run, Michigan; George A., of Gratiot County, Michigan; Harvey F., of Paulding County; Mary M., wife of W. D. McClure, of Grover Hill; Laura A., wife of Sanford Ryan, of Grover Hill; Minnie E., wife of Francis Ireland, of Paulding County; W. Clifford Grace F.; Benjamin H.; and Bessie E. Mrs. Griffith is a member of the Mount Pleasant United Brethren Church and a woman

of many admirable qualities. Mr. Griffith is a Republican and takes the liveliest interest in all that pertains to the public welfare.




GEORGE W. MICHAEL, a genial and substantial farmer of Van Wert County, residing on his farm in section 4, Hoaglin township, was born in Logan County, Ohio, June 23, 1841, and is a son of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Edmiston) Michael. Frederick Michael, the grandfather, emigrated to this country from Germany and located in Virginia, where he was married. Later he moved to Brown County, Ohio, where he lived a short time, thence migrating to Clark County and entering government land upon which he resided until his death. Benjamin, his son and the father of George W., was born in Virginia, whence he migrated to Ohio, locating in Logan County where he entered 120 acres of land from the government. He married Elizabeth Edmiston, who was a native of Tennessee, and the couple continued to make their home in Logan County until about 1849, when they moved to Champaign County.

George W. Michael is one of those farmers who take pleasure in keeping their premises in the best possible condition, making them a credit to the neighborhood and a pleasing bit of landscape to the passer-by. In 1881 he purchased 84 acres of almost undeveloped land, which he has improved until it ranks high among the many beautiful country homes for which Van Wert County is noted.

Mr. Michael was married December 31, 1865, to Sarah E. John, a native of Shelby County, Ohio, where he then resided and the marriage took place. His first wife died October 28, 1868, leaving two sons—William R. of Hoaglin township, and David E., who resides

in Paulding County. On September 28, 1871, Mr. Michael was married (second) to Eliza F. Burriss, born June 7, 1841, in Madison County. Her parents were Samuel and Ellen (Richardson) Burriss, the father a native of Maryland and the mother of Ross County, Ohio. Mr. Burriss lived in Madison County from his seventh year until his death in 1872; his wife died in Van Wert County. By his second union Mr. Michael has three children, two of whom are living, viz.: Ottawa A., of Union township; and Ella J., wife of Harry Giffin, of Hoaglin township. Both Mr. Michael and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and take an active interest in its work. In politics he is a Democrat. A view of the Michael home, showing an interesting family group, is shown on a preceding page.


 OHN B. WERMER, one of the representative citizens and well-known agriculturists of Pleasant township, resides on his finely cultivated farm of 129 acres, situated in section 18. He was born June 27, 1858, in Prussia, and is a son of John N. and Julia (Miltenberger) Wermer, both of whom died in Prussia.

John B. Wermer grew to manhood in his native land. He was educated in the local schools and then served an apprenticeship of three years to a painter and decorator. After completely mastering all of the details of this business, he traveled through his own country as a journeyman until 1881, when he emigrated to America and settled in Ohio. For a number of years he combined work at his trade with farming, through Van Wert County, mostly in Liberty and Harrison townships. In 1889 he settled on a farm in Liberty township, but in 1903 he came to his present valuable farm which he has ever since con-

tinued to improve. He has here a home of which he may justly be proud, for he, with the assistance of his estimable wife, has earned it all by hard work.

On December 20, 1883, Mr. Wermer was married to Catherine Young. She was born March 27, 1863, and is a daughter of Jacob and Christina (Miller) Young. All were born in Prussia. In 1875 Jacob Young, with his family, emigrated to America and settled in Harrison township, which at that time was but sparsely settled, and in many portions was still in its wild state. Jacob Young, now deceased, was twice married, his second wife, the mother of Mrs. Wermer, still surviving and residing in Harrison township. The surviving children of Mr. Young are: Philip, of Harrison township; Charles, of Willshire township; Frederick, of Harrison township; Catherine, wife of John B. Wermer; and Caroline, who is the wife of Peter Bauer, of Mercer County, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Wermer have these children: Julia M., wife of John Fritz, of Convoy, Ohio; William, of Pleasant township; and Otto, Gustave, Cora M. and Rosa M., all at home, a happy family. The religious connection of this family is with the Evangelical Association. Mr. Wermer is one of the intelligent, public-spirited men of his township. He has served two terms as township assessor during his residence in Liberty township, and he is always foremost in advocating those measures which will add to the efficiency of the public schools. Fraternally he is an Odd Fellow.

 LOREAN F. WILHELM, one of the successful farmers of Washington township, living on his well-developed and productive farm of 65 acres in section 32, was born August 16, 1858, on the farm which he now owns. He is the oldest son

of Valentine Wilhelm and grandson of Landelin Wilhelm, who was a native of Germany and spent his entire life in the land of his birth.

Valentine Wilhelm was born in Baden, Germany, where he was reared and educated, and in 1853, after his marriage with Julia Kald, emigrated to America, immediately locating on a farm near Landeck, Allen County, Ohio, where he remained for one year. He then moved to Van Wert County, and settled on the farm which his son now owns and here passed the remainder of his life. His death occurred on June 19, 1904, in his 87th year. Mr. and Mrs. Valentine Wilhelm had nine children, six of whom are now living, namely: Ursula (Gemke); Effersine (Weber); Theresa (Mrs. John Willmann); Louis H.; Rose (Longholts); and Florean F., the subject of this sketch. Elizabeth (Tegenkamp) one of the children died March 20, 1891, aged 42 years. The mother of this family died in 1873.


Florean F. Wilhelm has passed his life in the county where he was born. He was educated in the schools of that locality, at the same time assisting his father with the work on the farm, and later assuming the entire responsibility of its management. He was married June 2, 1903, to Mary Droll, a daughter of George and Catharine Droll, of Allen County. They have had no children. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm are members of St. John's Catholic Church at Delphos.

and has been continuously retained in that position. He was born October 24, 1859, in Hocking County, Ohio, and is a son of James and Susan (Dennis) Westenhaver.


The Westenhaver family are of German extraction and owe their existence in America to Christian Westerhaver, the great-grandfather of our subject, who came to this country and settled in Maryland. After a few years spent in that State, he moved to Hocking County, Ohio, and located on the land which is now the site of Logan. At that time his son Henry, who is the grandfather of our subject, was a child of four years, in after life holding the position of surveyor of Hocking County for 12 years and becoming an influential man.

Emanuel B. Westenhaver was reared in Hocking County until he was about 15 years of age, when his parents moved to Wood County, Ohio, and, after a short residence there, to Greene County. Later they located in Hardin County, where the father died and the mother still resides. Before coming to Van Wert County, Mr. Westenhaver resided for a short time in Clark County where he also engaged in farming. He has always taken an active part in the advancement of worthy public measures, and for a number of years was a member of the township school board.

On February 26, 1884, Mr. Westenhaver was married to Appolonia M. Angle who was born in Hocking County, Ohio, May 19, 1860, and is a daughter of Jacob and Julia A. (Gratfis) Angle. Her father was a native of Perry County, this State, and her mother, of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Westenhaver are the parents of three children, viz: Nettie M. who was born April 28, 1886; Susie R., born January 2, 1893; and William J. B., born November 6, 1897. Fraternally our subject is a

MANUEL B. WESTENHAVER came to this county in 1888 and located on the farm of 120 acres in section 6, Jackson township, where he has since resided. The following year he was elected to the office of justice of the peace

member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Grover Hill, and a man whose long years in public office have but served to endear him to the people and to emphasize his sterling worth.

ENJAMIN W. VAN EMAN, one of the representative agriculturists of York township, owning a fine, well-improved farm of 252 acres, in sections 25, 26 and 35, was born in this township in September, 1840, and is a son of Johnston and Amy Emeline (Griffin) Van Eman.

The father of Mr. Van Eman was born in Trumbull County, and the mother, in Champaign County, Ohio, and they were both pioneers in Van Wert County. The mother, who after the death of her husband, married Dr. Parrott, still survives, and is in the enjoyment of both mental and physical powers. Her wonderful memory vividly recalls her girlhood, and her reminiscences of the days before modern inventions had displaced the old primitive methods of farm and housework are very interesting. She can recall summers when she was accounted a very good helper in the hay field, and was mistress of the many useful domestic duties of her active days. For a long period she was noted as a cheesemaker, and, on many occasions, her viands of this description carried off the premiums at the county fairs. For over 50 years she resided on the farm which she finally divided among her children.

Mrs. Parrott is a daughter of Benjamin Griffin and a descendant of Nathaniel Griffin, who held an officer's commission in the War of the Revolution, serving in close association with General Washington. Of other members of her family may be mentioned two brothers—Benjamin Griffin, who is said to have killed

the largest grizzly bear that ever frequented the mountains of Colorado, and Claudius, who resides in Mercer County, Ohio, at the age of 93 years, he and wife having lived together for 66 years.

The children of Johnston and Amy Emeline (Griffin) Van Eman were: Benjamin W., of this sketch; a child who died in infancy; Experience., deceased, who was the wife of Jahue Goodwin; Oliver Scott, who died aged two and a half years; George, who died when 13 months of age; D. C., born in 1854, who married Jennie Pretty, daughter of Adison Pretty of Van Wert County, and has five children—Lodessa (Mrs. Clyde Adamson), Victor, Marshall, Ira and Mamie; Pearl, who married Ella Rosabone, has one son, Marion, and lives on the homestead; and John A., of Mercer County, who married Mary Black of Bellefontaine, Ohio. D. C. Van Eman, mentioned above, is an elder in the Seventh Day Adventist Church at Elgin.

Mrs. Parrott has always been active in church work. She was reared in a religious atmosphere, her father's house ever being open as a home to the itinerant preachers of the Methodist Church. It was through the representations of one of these, John Hill, whose circuit covered the territory 20 miles east of Jennings Prairie, that Benjamin Griffin finally located in Van Wert County. For many years Mrs. Parrott has been a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, and has served as a delegate to the conference of this body.


Benjamin W. Van Eman was reared on the home farm, his education was such as was provided by the primitive schools of his boyhood, and his entire life has been absorbed in agricultural operations. After he left home, he farmed first in section 25, purchasing 80 acres of his brother John. A part of his present farm consists of 160 acres in section 35.



MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL GRUNEWALD

York township—a tract which was entered from the government by Samuel Curl and then purchased by Benjamin Van Eman's mother. It is choice farming land and its full productiveness maintained through Mr. Van Eman's excellent methods of cultivation. His entire landed possessions in York township now aggregate 252 acres. During the Civil War, when Mr. Van Eman was about 22 years of age, he was drafted into the service, and for 10½ months was a member of Company C, 46th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf.

Mr. Van Eman was married (first) to Margaret Rigdon, and their children were as follows: Blanche (Mrs. Frank Cook), of Chicago; Sarah (Mrs. Nicholas Johnson), of Portland, Oregon; Arthur E., who was married October 12, 1905, to Mamie Ella Bitz, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin—they now reside in Portland, Oregon; and Avry O., of San Francisco. Mr. Van Eman was married (second) on September 11, 1890, to Elizabeth Emans, a daughter of Gilbert and Anna (Sitz) Emans, now of Putnam County, Ohio. Mr. Emans was born in New Jersey, and his wife, in Fairfield County, Ohio. The children of this union are: John P., named for an uncle, and Annie E., who bears the name of both her grandmothers. Mr. Van Eman is a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. He is one of the well-informed, intelligent citizens of the township, is a great reader, especially of instructive and religious works, and owns an excellent library.

AMUEL GRUNEWALD, one of the representative agriculturists and well-known citizens of Pleasant township, resides on his fine farm situated in section 36. He was born February 22, 1861, in Ashland County, Ohio, and is a son of Henry


and Anna (Drull) Grunewald. The parents were both born in Germany, emigrating to America in the late '40's and settling in Ashland County, Ohio. The father still resides there but the mother died July 28, 1898.

Samuel Grunewald was reared in his native county and attended the district schools. In young manhood he learned the carpenter's trade, at which he has been engaged, more or less, all his life, although farming has been his main occupation. In 1883 Mr. Grunewald came to Van Wert County, and after residing for a short time in Liberty township removed to his present farm in Pleasant township, where he has met with results both satisfactory and fully merited by his years of persistent industry.

On October 8, 1885, Mr. Grunewald was married to Nora E. A. Cooper, who was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Jesse K. and Hester A. (Kistler) Cooper. Mrs. Grunewald's father was born in Franklin County, Ohio, and her mother in Fairfield County. In young manhood, Mr. Cooper followed the trade of a millwright and for a number of years engaged in the manufacture of grain drills at Lancaster, Ohio, being one of the first to be thus employed. In 1865 he moved from Fairfield and settled in Pleasant township, Van Wert County, locating on the farm on which our subject and family now reside. He was an early settler in this locality and was regarded with respect and esteem throughout his long life, which terminated on July 26, 1891. His venerable widow still survives, the mother of four children, viz.: Darius O., of Liberty township; George W., of Hoaglin township; Hiram V., of Pleasant township; and Nora E. A. (Mrs. Grunewald). Mrs. Jesse K. Cooper is a member of the Presbyterian Church; her husband, at the time of his death, was a prominent Mason of this section.

being a member of Shawnee Commandery, K. T., at Lima.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Grunewald have had nine children, of whom one died in infancy; the eight survivors are as follows: Anna M., Amy F., Henry R., Jesse K., Samuel C., George A., Perry I. and Thelma N. M. Both Mr. Grunewald and his wife are charter members of Alpha Lodge, No. 1, Home Guards of America, at Van Wert, the former being also connected with the Improved Order of Red Men. In politics Mr. Grunewald is a Democrat. As an honest, industrious man—as a citizen who upholds the laws and who acts at all times for the welfare of his township and locality, he is very highly respected, and the entire family have a wide circle of friends. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Grunewald accompany this sketch.

ON. W. SCOTT JOHNSON, at one time deputy probate judge of Van Wert County, now engaged in the practice of the law at Van Wert, was born in this city, March 19, 1861, and is a son of Davis and Susan A. (Short) (Lennox) Johnson. A sketch of Davis Johnson appears elsewhere in this work.


Mr. Johnson was primarily educated in his native city. In 1879 he entered the National Normal School, at Lebanon, Ohio, for the summer term, and then returned to the Van Wert High school, which he attended until June, 1880. In the following September he entered the preparatory department of Kenyon College, at Gambier, Knox County, Ohio, then known as Milner Hall, a military school for boys. He continued to be connected with that institution until the spring of 1882, when he returned to Van Wert in order to enter business. During the remainder of 1882 and a part of 1883 he was employed in the grocery

business in this city, but resigned in the spring of 1883 to accept the position of deputy county recorder. He continued in office until the spring of 1885, resigning then to accept the agency of the United States Express Company, also becoming agent at Van Wert for the leading newspapers of Chicago and Cincinnati.

In the meantime the young man had been entertaining an ambition for professional life, and in order to find leisure for the reading of the law he disposed of his business interests and entered the office of Saltzgarber & Glenn, where he remained both as a student and clerk until January 1, 1889, during which time he also filled the position of secretary of the Van Wert Gas Company. Early in 1889 he entered the Law Department of the University of Michigan, from which he was graduated in June of that year, having completed a two-year course in six months, and was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of Ohio, second in the class of 66 students. Mr. Johnson then became associated in the practice of the law with Hon. Hiram C. Glenn. This partnership was dissolved by mutual consent in July, 1891. He continued to practice alone, enjoying a very large clientage until February, 1894, when he was honored by an appointment as deputy judge of probate for Van Wert County. During his continuance on the bench, Mr. Johnson made a record that holds out a stimulus and example to those who are called upon to assume the high responsibilities attached to such a position. He proved that he possessed a well-balanced judicial mind with the intellectual honesty and freedom from bias which are required in a judge. He served one term also as prosecuting attorney of Van Wert County. He has always stood very high at the local bar and he belongs to the various county and State organizations relating to his profession.

On August 2, 1883, Mr. Johnson was married to Mary Raker, who is a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Raker, of Fulton County, Ohio. They have three sons, namely: David, Glen and Paul Hastings.

Mr. Johnson was cradled in the Republican party, and during all his political life he has been an active factor in his party. During 1894 and 1895 he served as chairman of the Republican County Executive Committee, and upon numerous occasions has advanced his party's interests and ably represented its principles as a delegate. Fraternally Mr. Johnson is very prominent, being a member of the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America and the Improved Order of Red Men. In the last named society, he holds the highest office in Ohio, that of Great Sachem; at present he is a representative for the State of Ohio, by election, to the Great Council of the United States, which met last year at Nashville, Tennessee, and meets again this year at Dallas, Texas. In religious belief he is a Presbyterian.

ILBERT A. DULL, proprietor and sole owner of the Willshire (Ohio) Milling Company and a successful business man of the place, has been located here for some six years. He was born March 14, 1869, at Dull Station, 10 miles east of Willshire, and is a son of James Monroe and Martha A. (Lintemoot) Dull. His father was born January 23, 1846, one of the first white children native to Willshire township, and he has always resided within three miles of his birthplace. James M. Dull now owns 360 acres of choice land, Dull Station, of which he was the first postmaster, being named in his honor. His wife, formerly Martha A.

Lintemoot, was born in Liberty township, February 10, 1851, and to their union were born 12 children, namely: Wilbert A., of this sketch; Arthur, of Rockford; Lenhart, of North Baltimore, Wood County; Fannie M. (Custer), of Ohio City; Edgar M., of Celina; Serepa (Taylor), of Ohio City; Curtis, living on the home farm at Dull; Daisy, residing at home; James M., of Celina, Ohio; Herbert, engaged on the home farm; and Cleveland and Thurman, also both at home.

Wilbert A. Dull was reared on his father's farm, educated in the local schools, and pursued a business course at the Michael Business College, Delaware, Ohio. From 1887 until 1899 he conducted a general store at Dull, in which the postoffice was also situated, continuing in business there until he came to Willshire. Mr. Dull now handles coal, hay and grain, and does a general milling and elevator business. When he located in this place he purchased both the mill and elevator, the former being a 40-barrel mill, and the elevator having a capacity of 10,000 bushels. The combined establishment forms one of the largest industries in this section of the county, and is energetically and capably managed by Mr. Dull. He also owns the mill property, as well as lots 83, 84 and 103 east of the mill along the side of the "Clover Leaf" Railroad, and is thus insured fine transportation facilities.

On March 24, 1892, Wilbert A. Dull was married to Florence R. Anspaugh who was born in Whitley County, Indiana, April 7, 1875, and is a daughter of A. J. and Sarah (Bair) Anspaugh, natives of Indiana and Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Dull have had six children—Russell, Vera N., Merrill B., Clifford H., Leonora and Rua M. (who died in infancy).

Mr. Dull is one of the leading Democrats of his section of the county and his efficiency

has frequently been recognized by his party. He takes a deep interest in National politics, being a visitor to the last great Democratic convention held at St. Louis, Missouri. On several occasions he has efficiently served in the Town Council and as a member of the Board of Education. Fraternally he is connected with Monitor Lodge, No. 542, Knights of Pythias.

AUGUST HENRY PICKER, whose fine farm of 140 acres is situated in section 15, Washington township, is one of the most prominent and highly esteemed citizens of his locality. He was born in Westphalia, Germany, August 31, 1864, and is a son of Joseph and Catharine (Lillianbeck) Picker, who are still living and reside in Germany.

August Picker came to America in 1883 and landed in Baltimore, on May 3d of that year. The youth emigrated to America at the suggestion of his uncle, Bernard Picker, who was the owner of the farm of which our subject is now the possessor. He lived one year in Liberty township, Seneca, Ohio, and in 1884 removed to the farm of which he is now the proprietor. Bernard Picker, the uncle above mentioned, had lived on the farm now occupied by August H., for several years previous to 1880, but on Christmas Eve of that year his home was entered by robbers, who attacked and nearly killed him. Soon afterward he removed to Seneca County, Ohio, but returned to Washington township in 1884, bringing with him his nephew (who had come to this country the previous year) and again took possession of his farm, where he lived until the time of his death in 1890—his widow also continuing to make it her home, residing

with her nephew until her death, which occurred in 1897.

August H. Picker has one brother and three sisters, all living in Germany. He was married April 14, 1891, to Louisa Steible, and they had five children, namely: Joseph, who died in infancy; Elizabeth; Louisa, deceased; Catharine and Frank. Mrs. August Picker died July 19, 1902. Mr. Picker has made many improvements on the farm, has a fine large barn on the place, and in 1889 erected a large brick house. Religiously he is a member of the St. John's Catholic Church of Delphos, and is a representative citizen and farmer of this section of Van Wert County.

SHAFNER M. GILLILAND, one of the representative farmers of Ridge township, where he owns a finely-cultivated farm of 80 acres, was born in this county June 15, 1842, and is a son of Adam and Sarah (Shaffner) Gilliland. The father was born in Maryland and was still a young man when he came to Ohio and settled in Crawford County. There he married, and about 1832-33 removed to Van Wert County and settled as a pioneer in Ridge township. Here he passed the remainder of his life of public usefulness, serving as assessor of Ridge township and filling other positions where a man of judgment was required. Of his 11 children, these survive: John, a farmer in Ridge township, who was the first male white child born in Ridge township; Julia A., wife of Christian Palmer, of Ridge township; Shaffner M., our subject; Mary F., wife of Hon. Jonas S. Stuckey, of Ridge township; Sarah Elizabeth, who married Christian Heusted, of Pottawatomie County, Kansas; Martha E., wife of John A. Tomilson, of Ridge town-

ship; and Samuel B. and Robert, both of Ridge township.

Shaffner M. Gilliland was named for his maternal ancestors, the family of Shaffner being an old one in Pennsylvania, in which State his mother was born. He was reared on the home farm and obtained his education in the district schools of his neighborhood. An agriculturist all his life, he is justly regarded as one of the leading farmers of his township, his well-improved and thoroughly cultivated property testifying to the care and intelligent attention it has received. He has always been a patriotic citizen and during the Civil War he served eight months as a member of Company B, 192nd Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., participating in the campaign of the Shenandoah Valley.

On February 3, 1870, Shaffner M. Gilliland was married to Amanda E. Balyeat, who was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Jacob and Frances (Thomas) Balyeat. The father of Mrs. Gilliland was born in Pennsylvania, being one of the very early settlers in Van Wert County, where he died in 1899. His wife still survives him in her 80th year, as do nine of their children, namely: Jonas, of Ridge township; Philip, of Van Wert; Amanda (Mrs. Gilliland); Melvin and Michael T., both of Ridge township; Mary L., wife of G. Summerset, of Washington township; Martha A., wife of Samuel B. Gilliland, and Sarah F. (Mrs. Jesse Vorp), both of whom reside in Ridge township; and Luman, of Van Wert. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Gilliland are: Homer J., of Van Wert; Ira A., of Ridge township; Laura, wife of Hayes Johantgen, of Ohio City; Sarah F. (Mrs. Wilbur Fugate), of Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Jessie.

Politically Mr. Gilliland is a Democrat,

but is more concerned in looking after his farming than in seeking political preferment. His fraternal connections are confined to membership in W. C. Scott Post, G. A. R., at Van Wert.



WILLIAM FOSTER, familiarly known as 'Squire Foster all over Washington township, has served continuously as a justice of the peace for 32 years, and is one of the leading citizens of Middlepoint. He was born December 12, 1841, in Thorn township, Perry County, Ohio, being a son of George and Nancy (Martin) Foster.

The paternal grandfather of Mr. Foster was William Foster, whose grandfather was born in Prussia, Germany. About 1800 our subject's grandfather, William Foster, moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio, where he acquired government land in Perry County. In 1849 the father of our subject came to Van Wert County and settled in the midst of a forest in York township. He was a man of enterprise and industry, and it is probable that pioneer hardships shortened his life, as he died in 1851, leaving his farm uncleared and a family of five children dependent upon his widow. For several years the mother struggled bravely to keep her flock together. In 1853 she married again, and our subject did not accompany his step-father, John Clendenning, to the latter's home in the vicinity of Convoy.

William Foster, who was 12 years old at this time, was received into the home of Samuel Foster, of Middlepoint, who was a cousin of his father. Here he remained until he enlisted on August 8, 1862, for service in the Civil War, as a member of Company A, 90th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf. He remained with this

regiment until it was consolidated with the 50th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., on January 1, 1864, serving in the new organization until his honorable discharge at Salisbury, North Carolina, June 26, 1865. During this long period, although exposed to every danger, privation and hardships in which his company took part, participating in 23 engagements. He was one of the half-dozen members of the command who were never sick, wounded, or taken prisoner by the enemy. His war record discloses that he was never absent from his company for one single day. Mr. Foster's service placed him under a number of the most noted commanders of the war, notably, Rosecrans, Buell, Sherman and Grant. He was mustered out at Camp Dennison, near Cincinnati.

After the war Mr. Foster returned to Middlepoint and learned the carpenter's trade, or rather continued working at it, as he had previously had some experience. He has always enjoyed work in this line and still, on occasion, in spite of his many public honors and official duties, engages with old-time enthusiasm and practical skill in particular pieces of carpentry. In 1877 he engaged also in undertaking, and continued this line in connection with his trade, until 1902, when he sold out to E. F. Gamble.

'Squire Foster has always been a pronounced Democrat. In the spring of 1874 he was elected on the Democratic ticket, justice of the peace, and has served continuously ever since, undoubtedly being in this respect the oldest office-holder in Van Wert County. He has had much to do with the progress and substantial improvements of Middlepoint, being its first mayor, to which office he was re-elected on numerous occasions. His standing as a citizen is of the highest. He owns 50 acres of fine farming land in section 36, Ridge township, and also has several valuable houses and

lots in Middlepoint, which he keeps in such a good state of improvement that his rentals constitute a good income.

On December 20, 1866, Mr. Foster was married to Sarah E. Henderson, who is a daughter of John and Anna Henderson, of Pleasant township. They have four children, namely: Emma, born February 11, 1868, who married E. A. Temple, of Bluffton, Ohio, and has two children—Eunah and Beulah Marie; James Monroe, born July 9, 1871, who married May Askins and resides in Lima; Mary V., who married N. A. Tingley, of Rockford, Mercer County, Ohio, and has four children—Earl DeWitt, Bernice Sophia, Lena Elizabeth and Ilo Lucile; and Luther J., born July 28, 1877, who married Agnes Morris, of Middlepoint, lives at Fort Wayne, and has two children—Ionena and William Homer.

Mr. and Mrs. Foster are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Middlepoint, in which he is one of the deacons. He is a valued member of Zeller-Hamilton Post, No. 260, G. A. R., and belongs also to the Masonic and Odd Fellow bodies.

ASA BINKLEY, one of the leading agriculturists and prominent and useful citizens of Jackson township, whose fine farm of 90 acres is well improved and highly cultivated, was born December 8, 1850, in Allen County, Ohio, and is a son of Joseph and Mary (Keller) Binkley. His parents were born in Fairfield County, Ohio; his mother died in 1903, and his father now resides in Michigan.

Asa Binkley was reared and educated in Amanda township, Allen County, Ohio, and was there trained to practical farming. After reaching man's estate, for a time he engaged




ISAAC N. GIFFIN

the manufacture of drain tile, at Wetsel, Ohio, conducting that industry in connection with his farming, and, as he had settled there in 1872, he was one of the first in this line in Jackson township. In 1876 he located on his present farm, which by his industry and practical methods he has literally developed from a wilderness into one of the best-cultivated and most productive tracts in this locality.

On December 24, 1871, Mr. Binkley was married to Elvina Shock, who was born in Allen County, Ohio, December 11, 1847, and is a daughter of Peter and Mary (Boyd) Shock, natives of Pennsylvania and both deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Binkley have had six children, viz: Anna C. (wife of John A. Baker), Nelson and Cloyd, all of Jackson township; Mary J., wife of William Dito, of Wetsel, Ohio; Melvin, deceased; and Stella C., of Jackson township. Mr. and Mrs. Binkley are members of the Harmony United Brethren Church of Jackson township.

Politically Mr. Binkley is a Democrat. He served for four years as treasurer of Jackson township and is now a member of the School Board.

 SAAC N. GIFFIN, county surveyor of Van Wert County, whose portrait accompanies this sketch, is a native of this State, born in Miami County on November 16, 1852. He is a son of William and Martha (McKee) Giffin. The parents of Mr. Giffin came to Van Wert County in September, 1858, where they resided the remainder of their lives and reared a family of 10 children. For many years the elder Mr. Giffin was county surveyor.

Isaac N. Giffin was a child of six years when his parents came to Van Wert County, and here he was reared and educated. After

leaving school he became a teacher, and succeeded so well as a member of the profession that he continued in that occupation for 15 years. In 1870 he completed his course in engineering and assumed the line of professional work which led to his election as county surveyor.

In 1904 Mr. Giffin was married to Fannie M. Gleason, who is a daughter of Andrew J. Gleason, her family being firmly established and highly honored in the county. Mr. Giffin belongs to the Presbyterian Church, while his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Their pleasant home is at No. 913 Hughes street.

Politically Mr. Giffin is a Republican. In 1900 he was elected by that party to his present office by a majority of 277 votes and is now serving his second term, having been reelected in 1903 by a majority of 329. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows.



HARLES W. McCONAHY. For many years the late Charles W. McConahy was a prominent business man of Van Wert, his line being that of florist. He was born July 13, 1867, and was a son of Joseph and Della (Link) McConahy, formerly of Wyandot County.

The father of Charles W. McConahy has always been a farmer, but since the death of his son has given valuable assistance to his daughter-in-law, who found herself with heavy responsibilities on her hands on account of her late husband's extensive operations. Charles W. was one of a family of eight children.

The early life of Charles W. McConahy was passed in Wyandot County, where he attended school. He first went into the undertaking business; but in 1900 he embarked in

the florist business, investing in building lots at Van Wert, where he constructed his green-houses. The property is valued at several thousand dollars. Had he been spared, there is no doubt that he would have become one of the leading florists of the county, his business perceptions being excellent and his knowledge of the particular line he followed being complete. The business is carried on by Mrs. McConahy, who is a lady of much enterprise and business faculty.

Mr. McConahy was united in marriage with Libbie T. Richey, who is a daughter of George W. Richey, one of the substantial farmers of Van Wert County. She was left a widow on November 21, 1902. Both she and the late Mr. McConahy were active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was a Republican in his political views. His fraternal connections were with the Royal Arcanum and the Knights of Pythias. He was a man who was very highly esteemed, of pleasant, genial nature, and he left behind many warm friends. In business he was honest and upright, and in every position in life to which duty called him, he served to the best of his ability.

JOHAN BALDAUF, deceased, was formerly one of the most highly esteemed citizens and most substantial farmers of Washington township. He was born in Regensburg, Germany, March 19, 1846, and died on the fine farm he had acquired in section 20, Washington township, on September 16, 1903, at the age of 57 years, 5 months and 27 days.

Our subject's parents, Joseph and Frances (Bearschneider) Baldauf, were natives of Germany. They had nine children: Annie

(Smith), who died in Elyria, Ohio, in 1905; Frances (Kuchenreiter) now of Elyria; Theresa (Smith), of Elyria; Catherine (Leinfelder), deceased; Graszania (Smith), of Washington township; Joseph, of Elyria; John the subject of this sketch; and two children who died in infancy.

The late John Baldauf was six years old when his parents emigrated to America and settled near Avon, Lorain County, Ohio. There John grew to manhood, attending the district schools and learning to be a careful farmer and stock-raiser. When he was 20 years old he moved to Delphos, and soon settled on a farm of 40 acres about two miles from the home of his widow, which he operated until about 1880. Then he sold that property and bought 160 acres in Washington township, this being a part of the 320 which he left at the time of his death, and which is owned by his widow. He was a man of honest intentions and of great industry. Nobly assisted by his capable wife, he continued to increase his possessions and at the time of his decease was considered one of the township's most substantial men. He was a faithful member of St. John's Catholic Church, at Delphos, and always took a great deal of interest in the affairs of St. Joseph's Society. He was always very liberal in religious matters, was a man who was kind to the poor, helpful to his neighbors and devoted to his wife and children. His remains now rest in St. John's Catholic Cemetery at Delphos, and the spot is marked by one of the finest monuments in that sacred ground, which was erected by his loving widow.

On March 1, 1870, Mr. Baldauf was married to Annie Mary Nicolai, the estimable daughter of John and Gertrude (Schmitzer) Nicolai, of Prussia, Germany; she was born May 9, 1846, in Rheinland on the Lake L. and

Karn. Mrs. Baldauf is the fourth member of a family of seven children born to her parents, namely: Michael, of Germany; John and Anthony, both of Germany; Elizabeth and Mary, both deceased; and Catherine (Mrs. Nicholas Huymas), who lives in Missouri. The parents of Mrs. Baldauf died in their native land in 1864, and in 1867 she came alone to America, joining friends at Cleveland, where she lived for three years. In that city she met Mr. Baldauf and they were married at Elyria, on the 1st of March, 1870, and settled immediately on the 40-acre tract of land above mentioned.

These children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Baldauf: Jacob, residing at home; John who married Catherine Goebel, daughter of Casper Goebel, resides on his farm of 80 acres and has one child—Richard; Henry, who is a resident of Lorain County, Ohio; Frances, who married John Brickner, resides in Seneca County, Ohio, and has three children—Evelina, Raymond and Lorin; and Joseph, Frank, George, William and Dorothea. George is the only one deceased. These children have all been carefully reared in St. John's Catholic Church at Delphos, of which Mrs. Baldauf is a very prominent member. She is much interested in its various avenues of benevolence, liberally contributing at all times, and is a member of the Altar Society of the Sacred Heart. On many occasions this Christian lady has remembered the church in Germany where her parents worshiped and has sent substantial help. She continues to reside on her fine farm of 320 acres and is a lady well known and much esteemed. She can recall many interesting events connected with the development of the social affairs and religious progress connected with this section during more than 30 years of residence here.

JOHN LUERSMANN, a representative farmer and good citizen of Washington township, who resides on his well-cultivated farm of 120 acres, situated in section 35, was born in this township on May 8, 1852, and is a son of Casper and Anna Elizabeth (Raude) Luersmann.

Both parents of Mr. Luersmann were born in Hanover, Germany, and there were married. In 1844 they emigrated to America and settled first at Fort Jennings, in Putnam County, Ohio, but later made plans to leave the close vicinity of the Auglaize River and to settle permanently in Van Wert County. They were not able to carry out their plans quite so soon as they had hoped to do, and thus met with a misfortune which not only swept away all their possessions, but endangered their lives. Their pioneer home was strongly built and had an unusually substantial brick chimney; it was this that saved the lives of the family. January, 1847, proved to be unusually warm along the Auglaize River, and the snow rapidly melted and swelled the beautiful stream until it rose above its borders. Although the water was very high, Casper Luersmann and family retired one night at the ordinary hour, with no thought of real danger. While the little family slept in fancied security, the water continued to rise faster and faster and when morning broke they stepped from their beds into cold and muddy water. To any one who has witnessed an angry, swollen river rushing on with devastation in its path, over fields and farms, carrying everything before it, the picture returns again and again as a fearful one. This was what greeted the eyes of the Luersmann family as they climbed to the garret and then out upon the sloping roof. On every side was a waste of water and every moment they expected their home to be washed away. By four o'clock in

the afternoon they were rescued; for months they found a home with kind and sympathetic neighbors.

By this disaster Casper Luersmann lost not only all household possessions, but all his livestock and the products of his farm. As early in the spring as possible the family left their kind friends and moved to Washington township, Van Wert County, where the father purchased 40 acres from the government and commenced life anew. This land is a portion of the farm now owned by our subject. Here the parents lived out their many busy years, and when they passed out of life left friends and a loving family behind them. Their children were: Clara, deceased in 1884 and buried in St. John's Catholic Cemetery at Delphos, who was the wife of Herman Trentmann, of Marion township, Allen County; Dine, who has resided with our subject ever since his marriage, and is a lady well known in this community; and John, who is the youngest of the family. The father died in 1886, aged 77 years, and the mother in 1891, at the age of 82 years, both having been born in 1809.

On August 24, 1876, our subject was married to Anna Mesker, who was born February 5, 1856, in Marion township, Allen County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Casper and Clara (Lause) Mesker, natives of Hanover, Germany, who crossed the ocean on the same vessel as did the parents of Mr. Luersmann, and married after landing. Their children were: Mary, deceased in 1894, aged 50 years, unmarried, who never was able to walk a step in her life; Mrs. Elizabeth Elver and Mrs. Emma Hellenkamp, both of Delphos; Mrs. Catherine Kaverman; Mrs. Clara Kaverman, a widow; Mrs. Anna Luersmann; and Fred, who resides on his father's old homestead.

Mr. and Mrs. Luersmann have had 10 children, as follows: Rosa, who married Frank

Etzkorn, of Marion township, Allen County, on June 13, 1897, and has had five children—Clara (deceased), Aggie, Theresa, Clarence and Albert; John H., who resides at home assisting his father; Frank, Mary and Regina, residing at home; and Joseph, Alice, Leo, Bertha and an unnamed infant, who are deceased.

The family belong to St. John's Catholic Church at Delphos. Mr. Luersmann belongs to St. Joseph's Society and his wife to St. Mary's Altar Society, both being very devout and earnest church workers.



APT. DAVID P. DUNATHAN, one of Van Wert's most respected men of affairs, for many years a political factor in Van Wert County, and an honored survivor of the Civil war, was born April 17, 1840, in Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Robert H. and Mary E. (Protzman) Dunathan.

The grandparents of Captain Dunathan were born in Scotland, but resided for many years in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, where their son, Robert H., was born March 7, 1810. The mother of the child died when he was two years of age, and his father was probably killed by the Indians; so he was reared in the home of an uncle. When 20 years of age, he came to Ohio, settling in Montgomery County, where he married. Shortly afterward he moved to Sidney, Shelby County. There he followed the trade of weaver until 1839, when he removed to Mercer County, where he died in 1872. His first wife died in 1855 and he married (second) Nancy Moore. The children of his first marriage were: J. H., Sarah F., David P., James M., Jacob B., Robert L., Edward L., Johnson L. and Harman. The children of his second union were George M. and Mary

David P. Dunathan was reared on his father's farm in Mercer County, where he might still be following an agricultural life had not the call to arms in defense of his country come just at the time when the adventurous spirit of youth was at its flood tide. On September 10, 1861, he enlisted as a member of Company A, 46th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., for the three years service, through which he served with valor and faithfulness, and in 1864 became a veteran. During this pregnant period of our country's history, he participated in many of the great battles that settled the issues at stake, fighting at Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg, Jackson and Chickamauga. Prior to August, 1864, he served as sergeant, but was then commissioned 1st lieutenant as a reward for gallant action on the field. In February, 1865, he became captain of Company A, 46th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and with his original company served in the 100 days' fight from Chattanooga to Atlanta, and took part in all the glorious events which had for their culmination the Grand Review at Washington.

With thousands of other loyal men who had laid down every personal interest to give themselves to their country's service, Captain Dunathan returned to his home, where he engaged in farming until 1869. A business opening then presented itself at Van Wert, and he entered into a partnership in the manufacture of burlaps. As years passed he became interested at different times in other lines. In 1883 he was appointed postmaster at Van Wert by President Garfield. Before the expiration of his term of four years, he entered into partnership with Dayton Hard, under the firm name of Dunathan & Hard, in the handling of agricultural implements. He has made investments both in city and farming lands and is one of the substantial men of the community.

Captain Dunathan was married at Van


Wert, in 1865, to Amanda Gilliland, a member of a prominent family of this section, and they have had three children: Charles Walcott, deceased in infancy; Laura Rosaltha; and Jessie, wife of William D. Redrup, of Toledo, Ohio. Captain and Mrs. Dunathan are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a Knight Templar Mason.



RODNEY SMITH was born in Crawford County, Ohio, October 14, 1847, and is a son of John and Catherine (Spayd) Smith. He has been a resident of Hoaglin township, since September, 1874, and is one of the representative farmers of Van Wert County. John and Catherine Smith were natives of Pennsylvania but moved to Portage County, Ohio, and later to Crawford County. The father went to California, in 1849, where he died soon afterward, and his widow subsequently became the wife of Emil Seele.

Rodney Smith grew to manhood in Crawford County and at an early age was thrown on his own resources, being compelled by circumstances to make his own way in the world. On May 1, 1881, he was married to Emma J. Oliver, who was born October 14, 1860, and is a daughter of Jasper N. and Sarah (Dunkelbarger) Oliver, the former of Morrow, and the latter, of Marion County, Ohio. Mrs. Smith's sister Minerva (Mrs. J. L. Shaw), still resides in Morrow County. Jasper N. Oliver, her father, was killed at the battle of Chickamauga, in September, 1863, and in the spring of 1865 his widow settled in Hoaglin township, Van Wert County. Peter Dunkelbarger, the maternal grandfather of Mrs. Smith, and Jacob Spayd, the maternal grandfather of Mr. Smith, were soldiers in the War of 1812. Two

children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Smith, viz.: K. Estella, who married Grover Foltz, resides in Hoaglin township and is the mother of one son—Peter Preston; and Ada A., who married Edward Keith and also lives in that township. For five years Mr. Smith served as director of sub-district No. 2, Hoaglin township, and did much for the school of that district. In politics he is a Democrat, and all in all, a man who stands well with the entire community.

EONARD KUHL, a representative old settler of Van Wert County and a well-known citizen of Pleasant township, residing on his well cultivated farm of 80 acres, situated in section 24, was born at New Philadelphia, Ohio, October 20, 1833, and is a son of John A. and Annie E. (Culp) Kuhl.

The parents of Mr. Kuhl, who were natives of Germany, emigrated to America and settled in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. In 1843 the family moved to Richland County, and five years later to Van Wert County. The father settled in Liberty township, right in the woods, among the very earliest settlers. John A. Kuhl developed a farm of 80 acres from the wilderness and passed through the hardships incident to those times. Both parents died in Liberty township.

Our subject was 10 years old when the family settled in Richland County, and was 15 when the home was established in Liberty township, Van Wert County. The educational advantages possible to the youth of that time and locality were few and mainly confined to a few months in a log-cabin in some clearing, during the winters. Many of the men of Mr. Kuhl's age were reared among just such conditions

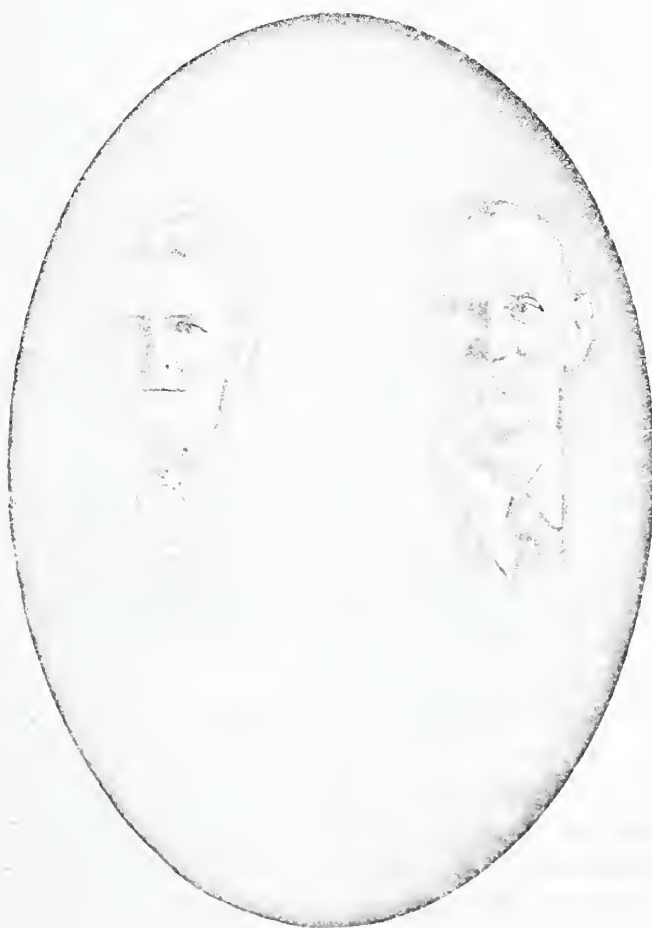
and, like him, through self-effort, developed into well-informed members of the communities in which they live.

On November 20, 1859, Mr. Kuhl was married to Phebe Hardenbrook, who was born in New Jersey. Of their five children, two survive: Albert A., of Pleasant township, and Clara A., wife of Peter Stump, of Ridge township. On May 5, 1897, Mr. Kuhl was married (second) to Mrs. Susan Lowther, who was born at Columbus, Ohio, October 13, 1851, and is a daughter of John and Louisa (Thomas) Gottshall. The father of Mrs. Kuhl was born in Morrow County, Ohio, and the mother in Virginia, although she was reared at Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Gottshall, now in his 83rd year still resides in Morrow County, where he is one of the leading farmers. He was a soldier of the Civil war, serving in the 47th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf.

Mrs. Kuhl was first married on October 17, 1869, to Henry Lowther, who was a native of Morrow County, Ohio, and they had two children, viz: Imogene, wife of Frank Miller, of Paulding County, Ohio; and John, of St. Louis, Missouri.

During the Civil war our subject served for five months as a member of Company D, 147th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., enlisting from Morrow County. His regiment was stationed in the Shenandoah Valley and was made use of in repairing and guarding railroads to Washington. After his return from the army, in 1865, he settled on his present farm, which he cleared from the woods and which he has converted into the valuable property it now is.

Politically Mr. Kuhl is a Republican. He has always lived as a good citizen, upheld the laws and performing his public and private duties with integrity. He is very well known and thoroughly respected.



MR. AND MRS. HENRY G. SCHUMM

HENRY G. SCHUMM, a substantial citizen and prominent farmer of this county, resides on the old Schumm homestead—the northeast quarter of section 27, Willshire township—where he was born on November 14, 1854, a son of George M. and Maria Anna (Pflueger) Schumm.

The Schumm family has been identified with the township named since pioneer days. The founder of it was John Schumm, who was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, and came to this locality in 1832, where he subsequently entered 800 acres of land, being thus able to start each of his four sons and his one daughter in life with quarter-section farms. He died on his farm in Willshire township, as did all the children, and all were buried in the old Lutheran Cemetery. The children of Mr. and Mrs. John Schumm, the grandparents of Henry G., were Rosanna, George M., Frederick, Jacob and Louis. Mr. Schumm was a worthy representative of the best German element; an industrious, intelligent, thrifty man; a good home-builder and a solid citizen. The present post-office bearing his name was designed to honor his memory, and stands as a recognition of his services to the community.

George M. Schumm, father of our subject, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, November 20, 1812, and was 20 years of age when he accompanied his father to Ohio. The family lived in Holmes County until 1838, although the father had previously entered 800 acres of land, as noted above, in Van Wert County. Before leaving Holmes County, George M. Schumm had married and was accompanied on his removal by his young wife. The journey was made in covered wagons, over roads which frequently had to be cut through the deep woods and, on many occasions, before their destination was reached fires had to be built around the wagons at night to prevent attacks from

wolves. Until a log house could be constructed the family camped out in a tent and for a number of years pioneer conditions prevailed all about the new home. Those were days in which the courage of both men and women was frequently tested. Our subject remembers hearing his mother tell of meeting a bear while on foot, carrying her butter to the Willshire market. Game of all kinds was so plentiful through all this section that the food question was easily settled; and fortunately so, for it was a long distance to Dayton (the nearest mill), or to Fort Wayne, or Piqua, a week being required to make such trips. Indians were still very numerous, but as the Schumm family treated them kindly, permitting them to rest over night and to partake of their bounty, the savages never molested any of its members.

The father of George M. Schumm continued to live on the farm here, where he died June 4, 1871. He had accomplished much in the way of clearing and improving the property and erected a barn which at that time, was, the best in the township. It was built in 1852, and in 1858 a comfortable and commodious residence was added to the other improvements. These structures still stand, having been remodeled and increased in size since Henry G. Schumm has come into possession. The deceased was a fine man, honest, upright, industrious and in every way reliable; was one of the founders of the Lutheran Church here, which was built in 1846, and politically was a staunch Democrat.

George M. Schumm was married in Holmes County, Ohio, to Maria Ann Pflueger, who was also born in Wurtemberg, Germany, on June 20, 1820, and died on our subject's farm March 25, 1903. She was a daughter of Christian and Maria Pflueger, natives of Germany, who came to Holmes County, Ohio, when she was 11 years of age. Two of her sisters reside here.

The children of George M. Schumm and wife numbered 13, of whom Henry G., the subject of these lines, was 10th in order of birth. The others were: Jacob Frederick, a substantial farmer of Mercer County, Ohio; Louis, of La Porte, Indiana; George M., a Lutheran minister, now stationed at LaFayette, Indiana; John, who died a prisoner of war, in 1864; Rosanna (Roehm), of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Mary (Peters), who died in 1877 at Baltimore, Maryland; Jacob, who died at LaPorte, Indiana; Christian, deceased, who was a teacher in a private school in Chicago; Margaret and William, who died in infancy; Martin J., a resident of Brooklyn, New York; and Sophia, who resides at LaPorte, Indiana. The fourth member of the above family, John Schumm, held the rank of major in the State militia. He went out during the Civil War as flag-bearer of the 60th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., was taken prisoner at Harper's Ferry; was confined in the terrible Confederate prison at Salisbury, North Carolina, and died there on October 28, 1864.


Henry G. Schumm has lived on the homestead all his life, having followed a general line of farming. In addition to owning and operating the quarter section in Willshire township, as mentioned, he also has a tenant on a fertile tract of 53 acres in sections 28 and 33, lying along the river bottoms. Besides the substantial, modern home, and the fine farm buildings of all kinds, which add to the value and attractiveness of his homestead, Mr. Schumm has, upon his land, a two-story and basement brick store building, 42 by 80 feet, which he purchased in 1897 for mercantile purposes, in partnership with two cousins.

Politically, Mr. Schumm has always been identified with the Democratic party, of which he is a very influential local factor. On many occasions he has been the choice of his dis-

cerning fellow-citizens for their most important county and township offices. From 1893 until 1897 he served as township trustee, and in 1902 was again elected to this office and served for four years. In 1896 he was chosen county commissioner, serving one term, during which notable improvements were made all over the county. While he was trustee, there were laid 43 miles of turnpike in Willshire township, and during his period as county commissioner he settled the dispute over Flat Rock ditch—a subject which had agitated the taxpayers of the township and county for 30 years, involving, as it did, a dispute concerning ditching over the State line into Indiana. The first turnpike granted under the mile system was also done during Mr. Schumm's last years as county commissioner. On numerous occasions he has served in the interests of his section as a delegate on county and district delegations to various legislative bodies. In 1905 Mr. Schumm was appointed by Judge E. S. Mathias as a member of the jury commission, and has served for some three years as a member of the School Board. It may be added that he is the agent for the Farmers' Mutual Aid Association, of Willshire township. It will be rightly inferred that he is an able, useful man, of broad and practical abilities.

Mr. Schumm was married (first) in 1879 to Anna Roehm, who was born in Tully township, Van Wert County, Ohio, and died here in 1901, aged 44 years and 3 months. She was a daughter of Andrew Roehm, who subsequently moved to Willshire township. The children born to this union were: Amelia, wife of Hugo Schumm, of Chicago; Annie, who died in 1901, aged 18 years, and Henrietta, who died at the age of 16 years—all three, the mother and the two daughters mentioned, dying of typhoid fever, within two months of each other; and Walter E. and Esther, both at

home. Mr. Schumm was married (second) in November, 1904, to Mrs. Minnie M. Lime-cooly, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, who is a daughter of Frederick Kroemer. Mr. Schumm has been a trustee in the German Evangelical Lutheran Church since he was 25 years of age, and is now one of the deacons of that body. The cozy church parsonage is situated on his land, and the church is on the opposite side of the road. Accompanying this sketch are shown portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Schumm.

 HARLES A. MELSHEIMER, M. D., physician, business man and public-spirited citizen, was one of the most highly esteemed residents of Van Wert, where his death occurred, January 21, 1895. Dr. Melsheimer was born in Stark County, Ohio, January 8, 1826, and was the youngest son of Henry W. and Mary (Kim-mell) Melsheimer.

Dr. Melsheimer came of German ancestry and of an educated family. His grandfather, in his day, was a noted entomologist, and his father, a saddler by trade, was a man of intelligence who encouraged his son in securing literary and medical training.

Dr. Melsheimer was educated in the schools of Canton, Ohio, where his parents settled in 1816. The father carried on his saddlery business there for many years; but prior to his decease entered the ministry of the Lutheran Church. The son was also of an intellectual turn of mind, anxious to enter a profession, and finally upon deciding to become a physician, was received as a student by Dr. Whiting one of the prominent medical men at Canton at that time. The young man completed what was then the necessary course, comprising four years of study, and located in Indiana. He practiced

there for some three years and then removed to Willshire, where he continued in active practice until 1860. He then came to Van Wert, where he embarked in the drug business, which he continued to the close of his life, conducting his store in a business block which he erected.

On April 27, 1852, Dr. Melsheimer was married at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Eliza Ann Hawk, who was born in Pennsylvania. They had four children, three of whom survive, one daughter, Elta A. (Mrs. William Andrews), having died in December, 1900.

Wallace A. Melsheimer, the eldest son, was born January 29, 1855, while the family resided in Willshire, and was five years old when removal was made to Van Wert. Under his father he became an expert pharmacist. In 1876 he became associated with his father as his partner, and succeeded him in the business. He was married June 19, 1884, to Ada May Moltz, of Richland County, and they have two children—Ethel and Eva. The family reside in Springfield, Ohio. Both he and wife belong to St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Ellis E. Melsheimer, the second son, married Flora Neff, of Richmond, Indiana, and they have three sons: Charles A., Robert and Lewis. This family reside in Pleasant township.

Leon Melsheimer, the third son of Dr. and Mrs. Melsheimer, was born August 10, 1869. His business life has been in the line of telegraphic railroad work, and he is the operator at Van Wert for the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railway Company. On May 16, 1892, he was married to Nettie Campbell, a native of Van Wert. They are members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

The late Dr. Melsheimer was a very prominent member of the Republican party, and in 1877 was its standard-bearer for Representative. In 1884 he was elected city treasurer,

having served in 1876 as township treasurer. He was interested in many city and county organizations, and in 1869 he was elected treasurer of the Van Wert Agricultural Society, which position he retained until 1894. He belonged to the Lutheran Church and was liberal in his benefactions. For many years he was identified with the Odd Fellows, and his funeral obsequies were conducted by the brethren of this order.

Dr. Melsheimer was an honorable, upright man, one who appreciated the meaning of civic duty, and who endeavored always to act as became a good citizen. To the needy he was a friend, giving medical advice long after he had ceased to practice, and, through courtesy and kindness made every one his friend.

HOMER GILLILAND, one of Van Wert's enterprising business men, a member of the hardware firm of Jones & Tudor Co., was born in this county November 24, 1870, and is a son of Shaffner M. and Amanda E. (Balyeat) Gilliland.

After completing the common-school course in Van Wert County, Homer Gilliland became a student at the Angola (Indiana) Academy, and later became a teacher, but soon returned to Van Wert and as a clerk entered the business house of Jones & Tudor Co., being admitted to a partnership in January, 1903. This is one of the large business enterprises of the city, the firm retailing in hardware, stoves, tinware and building material, and being wholesale dealers in bale ties and specialties. They are favorably located at Nos. 142 and 144 East Main street, Van Wert, and to facilitate the transaction of their large business have two telephone connections.

On November 21, 1894, Homer Gilliland was married to Florence Johantgen, and they

have two children—Russell L. and Gladys M. The family residence is at No. 615 South Walnut street. Politically Mr. Gilliland is a Democrat, fraternally he is a Mason and both he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Gilliland is recognized as one of the progressive young business men of the city—one who is enthusiastic and effective in the furtherance of worthy public movements.



THOMAS POLLOCK. It is said that "Death loves a shining mark"; and never was this phrase better illustrated than when the Grim Reaper visited Ridge township on September 10, 1905, and took to himself that loved and honored citizen, Thomas Pollock, whose unselfish and kindly life, and his deep interest in the public weal made him one of the most valuable, popular and generally beloved men in Van Wert County. Born in Ridge township July 9, 1858, his entire life had been spent here, and was an open book to those who cared to read. His parents, Robert and Eliza A. (Sutton) Pollock, were also prominent residents here during their lives. Robert Pollock being at one time treasurer of Van Wert County. He purchased 200 acres of land from his father, of which 120 acres fell to Thomas Pollock and is now occupied by his widow. Previous to his death Mr. Pollock added 40 acres to the tract which he inherited, making the entire homestead 160 acres.

Thomas Pollock received a liberal education, and then turned his attention to farming and stockraising—an occupation in which he met with unqualified success. On October 15, 1884, he was united in marriage with Lily M. Mullen, and a family of four children were born to them, namely: Walter A., James P., Nellie L. and Gordon T., last named being



LORENZO DOW WISENER

deceased. Mr. Pollock and his family were zealous members of the Presbyterian Church at Middlepoint, where for a number of years he was trustee and secretary. In politics he was a Democrat, and held various offices, being assistant treasurer of the county under his father; township trustee for two terms; and, for a number of years, served on the School Board, being president of that body at the time of his death. He took great interest in all that pertained to agriculture and was a member of the Van Wert County Agricultural Society, in which he was also a director. His absence will be felt in every phase of township life, and his counsel and advice everywhere sadly missed. In the home he was the kind and sympathetic companion, counselor and guide, the clouds of trouble being dissipated by the sunshine of his love.

Mrs. Thomas Pollock was born in this county and is a daughter of James J. and Harriet (Gilliland) McMillen. James J. Miller, who is now deceased, was a native of Knox County, but for many years was a resident of Ridge township, Van Wert County; his widow who was born in Ridge township, now resides in Van Wert. Mrs. Pollock and her children reside on the home farm in section 36, Ridge township, and will continue the useful work begun by her husband.

LORENZO DOW WISENER, who resides on his farm in section 15, Hoaglin township, is the owner of a valuable and well-improved farm of 352 acres, which makes him one of the largest agriculturalists in Van Wert County. He is a breeder of Aberdeen-Angus cattle and Poland-China hogs, and his continuous success has resulted from the application of intelligent business methods to his stock-raising and agri-

cultural operations. Mr. Wisener is a native of Carroll County, Ohio, where he was born July 8, 1847, his parents being Andrew and Elizabeth (Bird) Wisener.

Jacob Wisener, the paternal grandfather, was of German parentage but a native of Pennsylvania, whence he migrated to Ohio about 1825, locating in Carroll County. Andrew Wisener, the father, was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, but passed the greater portion of his life in Ohio. He was married in Carroll County to Elizabeth Bird, a native of England, whose parents settled in that county about 1821. In 1851 Andrew Wisener brought his family to Van Wert County, establishing a home for them in section 15, Hoaglin township. At the outbreak of the Civil war he was among the first to answer the call to arms, going to the front with Company F, 64th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and sacrificing his life to the Union cause, his death occurring December 24, 1862. He is survived by three children—Lorenzo D., Hannah C. (Mrs. Benjamin Geesev) and John, all residents of Hoaglin township.

Lorenzo D. Wisener was reared in Van Wert County, attended the public schools and later graduated, in the classics, from the Ohio Normal University at Ada. He taught school to meet his university expenses, and continued as a teacher in Van Wert County for about 15 years, being uniformly successful in this profession; and since he has assumed agricultural work, he has likewise given to his farming and stock-raising his best thought and attention with the result that he has risen to a leading place among the agriculturists of Van Wert County. On July 23, 1863, when only 16 years of age, Mr. Wisener enlisted in Company K, 83th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., serving in the Union Army for two years, and receiving an honorable discharge on July 5, 1865.

Mr. Wisener was married August 3, 1899, to Mary W. Claytor, who was born in Bedford County, Virginia, and is a daughter of William G. and Mary P. (Jordan) Claytor, natives of that county, and of Scotch-Irish and English descent respectively. The Claytor family is a prominent one in the Old Dominion. William G. Claytor, Mrs. Wisener's father, was born in 1821, and received a classical education in the University of Virginia. He was an educator by profession and conducted a private school for young men, known as Claytor's Academy, in which he himself taught Latin, Greek and mathematics. Mrs. Wisener's father and four uncles were officers in the Confederate Army, and two of her brothers—one an attorney and the other an editor—were members of the State Senate of Virginia. After finishing her education, under the tutelage of her father, Mrs. Wisener taught in private and public schools for a period of eight years.

Mr. Wisener is a Republican and at one time was assessor of Hoaglin township. In 1903 his friends placed his name before the nominating convention as a candidate for the office of State Representative, his opponent being Hon. Jonas Stuckey. Mr. Wisener is a firm believer in the Christian religion and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a man of splendid character—kind, sympathetic, energetic and progressive, and of unquestionable integrity and worth. His portrait is shown on a preceding page.

JOHAN GILLILAND, a prominent citizen, old settler and well-known agriculturist of Ridge township, residing on his well-improved farm of 101 acres which is situated in section 31, was born July 5, 1836, and is a son of Adam and Sarah

(Shaffner) Gilliland. He enjoys the distinction of being the first white child born in Ridge township. His father was a native of Maryland, who in young manhood located in Crawford County, Ohio, where he was married to Sarah Shaffner, who was born in Pennsylvania. He was a most worthy man in every particular and served in some of the local offices of Ridge township. His children were: John, of this sketch; Julia A., wife of Christian Palmer; Mary F., wife of Hon. J. S. Stuckey; Sarah Elizabeth, wife of Christian Honsted, of Pottawatomie County, Kansas; Shaffner M.; Samuel; Martha E., wife of John A. Tomlinson; and Robert—all of Ridge township, with the exception of Mrs. Christian Honsted.

John Gilliland was reared in Ridge township and obtained his education in the district schools, being trained as a practical farmer and for a number of years engaged in the buying and shipping of live-stock. After his marriage he settled on the present farm, which formerly belonged to his father-in-law, and this tract he has greatly improved, it being now one of the best properties in the township.

On June 7, 1866, John Gilliland was married to Lucy Cavett, who was born in Williams County, Ohio, January 10, 1839, and is a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Barnes) Cavett. Her father was born in Pennsylvania, and her mother, in New York. In 1839 they came to Van Wert County, settled for a short time at Middlepoint and then located on the farm in Ridge township occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Gilliland. Our subject and wife have had 10 children, as follows: Ella A., wife of H. V. Cooper, of Pleasant township; William C., of Ridge township; Adam, of Pleasant township; Emma J., wife of Dr. Ed. Edwards, of Delphos, Ohio; Bertha M. (Mrs. Monzo Huffine), of Liberty township; Clara P., who married D. A. North, of Van Wert; Hugh, of

Preble County, Ohio; Sarah and Ira, both living at home; and a child who died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. John Gilliland are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically Mr. Gilliland is a Democrat and on many occasions has been chosen by his fellow-citizens for important local offices. He has served as township land appraiser and for some years was chairman of the board of township trustees. He has been very active and most useful in overseeing the construction of the turnpike road through Ridge township, being anxious at all times to safeguard the interests of the public. Mr. Gilliland is a man held in very high esteem and may justly be considered one of the township's representative men.

GEORGE B. SWARTZ, one of the representative farmers of Liberty township, who owns a fine farm of 105 acres of land in section 32, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, on December 19, 1850, and is a son of John and Mary (Bright) Swartz. His father was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and was a son of George Swartz, a native of Pennsylvania who moved from that State to Fairfield County. Mrs. Swartz, the mother, was a daughter of John Bright, a farmer of Fairfield County. John Swartz died in 1866, and his wife, in 1873.

George Swartz was reared on his father's farm and received a common school education, living on the family homestead until the death of his mother. He was married on November 19, 1879, to Relieffa Lillian Schenck, a daughter of David Schenck. Mr. Swartz lived for 14 years in Fairfield County; after his marriage engaged in farming and in March, 1894, moved to Liberty township, Van Wert County, where he settled on a farm of 105 acres, which he had

bought the year previous and upon which he has since resided. He found it necessary to make many improvements and has erected good substantial buildings, his frame residence being built in 1903 and his fine large barn in the summer of 1905.

Mr. and Mrs. George Swartz have had three children, two of whom are living: Mamie Dale, the oldest, who married Ralph L. Royer and has one child—Cecil Leo; Elmer D., who died in 1887, just one day previous to his first birthday anniversary; and Florice Velma. The parents are both members of the United Brethren Church.

REV. JOHN BROUGH GOTTSCHALL, pastor of Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, of Delphos, was born at Gettysburg, Darke County, Ohio, October 28, 1863, a son of Jacob and Fianna (Martzall) Gottschall, both of whom are natives of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and of German descent. His paternal grandfather, David Gottschall, was born in Germany and came to America during his earlier years.

John B. Gottschall attended the public schools of Darke County, and in 1886 entered the Ohio Normal University at Ada, Ohio. Two years later, he became an instructor in that institution, having charge of the commercial course. He was thus employed for eight years, when he decided to take up the work of the ministry. He was placed in charge of the churches at Gilboa and Pandora, Putnam County, as his first charge. He was well qualified for his chosen work, being a sympathetic and logical reasoner, and it was with genuine sorrow that his parishioners saw him depart for his second charge at Bloomdale, Wood County. After two years in the First

Methodist Episcopal Church of that place, he was sent to the church at Willshire, where he was stationed for five years, and had the satisfaction of seeing the organization there make steady and rapid advancement.

In the fall of 1905 he took charge of the church at Delphos, and entered upon the work with an enthusiasm and zeal which portends a great spiritual awakening in an already strong church. The membership is about 400 at the present time and, from the interest being manifested, it is hoped to add many more to the roll. Mr. Gottschall has made himself popular, not only among the people of his immediate congregation, but among all classes, many of his warmest friends holding different religious views. He is a deep thinker, a keen observer of human nature, quick to respond to the call of the unfortunate, and fearless in his denunciation of evil—indeed it is this very fearlessness that lends potency to his utterances. Mr. Gottschall was married to Mary Reck, daughter of Levi Reck, of Darke County, Ohio. Three children have blessed their home: Rea, born September 9, 1890; Eva, born September 9, 1892; and J. Joyce, born February 10, 1901.

DARIUS O. COOPER, one of the best known and highly respected citizens of Liberty township who owns the farm of 80 acres in section 2, upon which he resides, as well as 160 acres in section 35, Pleasant township, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and is the son of Jesse K. and Hester (Kistler) Cooper, his father being formerly a wheat drill manufacturer of Lancaster, Ohio. Jesse K. Cooper and his wife came to Van Wert County about 1864, when our subject was about 12 years old, and settled on a farm in Pleasant township, where the

husband died in 1891. Mrs. Cooper is still living and resides on the old homestead in Pleasant township. Mr. and Mrs. Jesse K. Cooper had 10 children, four of whom are still living, as follows; Darius O.; George; Hiram; and Nora (Grunewald).


Darius O. Cooper has lived in Liberty township since his 12th year, and been engaged in farming. In 1877 he was married to Alice Hoghe, a daughter of Abram Hoghe, and himself and wife have reared to maturity, 10 children—Hester A., who married Henry Bowers and has one child, Gordon; Maud (Mrs. Charles Rader); Delcena, wife of John Rader and mother of one child—Pearl; Jesse; Goldie; Hiram; Owen; Florence; Nellie and Beatrice. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper are members of the North Liberty Methodist Church, of which he is trustee. He is also connected with the Van Wert lodge of Masons.

ADAM WISE, proprietor of the Union Flour Mills, of Van Wert, is the leading miller of Van Wert County and the manufacturer of one of the best grades of flour put upon the market. His parents are George M. and Elizabeth (Hetzel) Wise. The former was a baker during the early part of his life, but later became an agriculturist and moved to the farm in Van Wert County where our subject was born on December 5, 1860.

Adam Wise was one of a family of six children and was accorded a good common-school education. In 1878 he entered the employ of the City Mills as driver of their wagon in the city delivery, and by faithful work won his way from one position to another until he had at last mastered the business, and was ready to start out for himself. On May 5, 1904,


he took possession of the Union Mills, for which he had paid the sum of \$12,500, and enjoys the satisfaction of seeing the output of his plant rated among the best in the country. No expense has been spared to make this mill superior in every way, and the introduction of the Stevens and Allis rollers has gone far to bring about this result. It has a capacity of 80 barrels per day, and is an industry which gives employment to a number of people and brings considerable money to the city.

Mr. Wise married Kittie Shoop, daughter of Benjamin Shoop. They have two children—Princess L. and Cathaleen, and are pleasantly located in their home on the corner of Crawford and Tyler streets. They are attendants of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which both are members. Mr. Wise is a Democrat and a man of sterling character.

 LOUIS BENDER has been an esteemed resident of Hoaglin township since the spring of 1888, when he moved to his recently purchased farm of 103 acres in section 5, which has since been his home. He was born in Erie County, Pennsylvania, October 13, 1854, and is a son of Lewis and Lena (Rupert) Bender, both of whom were natives of Germany. They came to America about the middle of the last century and were married in Erie County which was their home until 1865. At that time the family removed to Franklin County, Ohio, in which they remained a short time before finally locating in Licking County where both parents passed away many years ago. The children born to them were as follows: Louis; John, of Franklin County; Charles W., of Colorado; Otto L.; Elizabeth, wife of Allen Barb; Mary, wife of John Link; Emma, married to Homer Ger-

heart; and Daniel. The five last named still reside in Licking County.

Louis Bender was 10 years of age when the family located in Licking County and it was there he grew to manhood. When quite young he began working on the farm by the month and in this way gathered the funds which enabled him to stock a rented farm and, in 1888, to purchase his present holdings. It is a case where industry and perseverance have brought their reward, and but shows that success awaits those who strive for it by practical means. Mr. Bender was married February 12, 1888, to Olive Bourne, a native of Indiana, by whom he has a family of four children, viz.: Elizabeth B.; Charles W.; Frederick; and a child who died as an infant. Mr. Bender is a prominent member, class leader and steward of the Grand Victory Church, of Hoaglin township, and one of the most indefatigable workers in the Evangelical Association.

 GEORGE J. SMITH, recorder of Van Wert County, who is now serving his second term of office, is one of the best known educators in this section of the State. He was born in Perry County, Ohio, November 10, 1857, and is a son of George W. and Mary A. (Saum) Smith. The father of Mr. Smith, born in 1832, still survives, being a well known and respected citizen, having worked at the carpenter's trade, through several counties in this section, for a number of years of his active life.

George J. Smith was educated in Perry County and while still a young man began to teach school, being thus employed for two terms in Perry County and for 15 years in Allen County. After removing to Van Wert County he continued in the educational field

and taught until 1902, when he was elected county recorder and reelected in 1905. Mr. Smith is able and popular as a public official, and in the discharge of his present duties employs one assistant and one clerk. He has always identified with the Republican party.

Mr. Smith's wife was formerly Emma Huber, a daughter of Christian and Mary K. (Kneisley) Huber and they are the parents of five children—Harley C., Marion J., Errol F., Mary E. and Dale—all of whom reside at home. The family have a very pleasant home at No. 514 North Jefferson street, Van Wert. Fraternally Mr. Smith is connected with the Knights of Pythias and the Home Guards of America.

JONATHAN TUMBLESON, a venerable and esteemed resident of Pleasant township, residing on his farm of 120 acres situated in section 16, is a pioneer of Van Wert County, having lived in the county since his 13th year. He has fully participated in the material development of this part of the country, as well as in its moral and intellectual advancement. Mr. Tumbleson was born in Wayne County, Ohio, March 26, 1828, and is a son of John and Susanna (Bowers) Tumbleson, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. The paternal ancestors were English. John Tumbleson, familiarly known as "Judge" Tumbleson (having served as associate judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Van Wert County), removed from Wayne to Allen County and, in 1841, came to Van Wert and located in Pleasant township when that locality was still covered with dense forests. He enjoyed the wild and rugged life of the pioneer and later removed to Iowa, settling in Polk County, where he passed his last years. At one time he was trustee of Pleasant township, in-

variably manifested the liveliest interest in all local events and was recognized as one of the county's most influential citizens.

Jonathan Tumbleson was reared and educated in Pleasant township and then learned the trade of a plasterer, which occupation he followed for about 20 years. He then turned to agriculture and has since given his entire time to this industry, meeting with deserved success. On August 15, 1850, he was married to Lucinda J. Eller, who was born in Richland County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Frederick and Eliza J. Eller. Mrs. Tumbleson's parents came to Van Wert County and located in Harrison township when she was but a child, and the greater part of her life was spent in this vicinity, where she was so well known and beloved. She was a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal faith, and in her death, which occurred March 13, 1901, the church lost one of its most earnest workers, the community a sympathetic and kind-hearted neighbor and the family a devoted wife and mother. For more than 50 years this couple had traveled life's pathway, together brightly facing the sunshine, as well as braving the gloom. Sixteen children blessed their union, of whom two died in infancy. The 14 that grew to maturity were as follows: Alice D., of Van Wert; George W. (see below); Emma C., wife of Albert N. Terry; Alfred S.; Eliza J., wife of James Bowers; Mary L., wife of John Kreider; Susan, wife of John Eckfeld; Addie B., wife of Francis Arnold; Iona, wife of K. Gamble; Frank J.; Cora B., wife of Walter Conn; Cecelia, wife of Robert Conn; Charles G., of California; and Rosetta L., wife of Adam Gilliland. Mr. Tumbleson is a life-long Republican; served as trustee of Pleasant township for 17 years; is a consistent Methodist, and a man whose life record commands general respect.

GEORGE W. TUMBLESON was born in Pleasant



RESIDENCE OF HENRY F. SCHINNERER

ant township April 26, 1858, and has been a resident here throughout life. He was married September 1, 1883, to Ida B. Hammell, by whom he has two children—Fred C. and Etta L. George W. Tumbleson resides on the farm with his father and superintends its operations, being one of the most capable farmers in the township. He is a Republican. His maternal grandmother, Mrs. Eliza J. (Eller) Johns, is in her 88th year, resides in Andrews, Indiana, and has 163 descendents, viz.: 54 grandchildren; 103 great-grandchildren; and 6 great-great-grandchildren.

HENRY F. SCHINNERER, one of the leading men and most substantial farmers of Willshire township, who resides on his magnificent farm of 212 acres, situated in sections 29 and 30, was born near Rockford, Mercer County, Ohio, May 2, 1867, and is a son of Frederick and Elizabeth (Schumm) Schinnerer. His father, born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1824, came to the United States in 1849; settled in Mercer County, Ohio, where he was a large farmer, and died February 5, 1905. Immediately after his first marriage, he came to America, being at that time a man of small capital. From 1849 until 1871, he operated a grist and shingle mill at Rockford, having learned his trade in Germany, and from 1872 until the close of his active life he farmed in Willshire township, Van Wert County, where he acquired 300 acres of land, our subject's farm being a part of the property. During the Civil war he served as trustee of Mercer County. Politically he was a Democrat: for many years was a leading member of the German Lutheran Church,

and was generally a man of great natural intelligence and very well educated.

In Germany, Frederick Schinnerer married (first) Margaret Dyer, and they had two children—Rosanna, deceased, who married Henry Schumm, and Lena, who is the wife of Christian Hoffman, of Pleasant township. Mr. Schinnerer was married (second) to Elizabeth Schumm, a daughter of Louis Schumm, and they have these children: Clara, wife of Joseph Gunsett, of Willshire township; Henry F., of this sketch; Hannah, wife of Peter Scare, of Union township; Lizzie, wife of John Scare, of Willshire township; Sophia, wife of Herman Gunsett, of Van Wert; Emma, wife of Bert Balyeat, of Van Wert; and Mollie, who resides with her mother on an adjoining farm in a fine brick residence, one of the substantial homes of the township.

Henry F. Schinnerer was five years old when his parents came to Van Wert County, and he has resided on the present farm almost ever since. In addition to owning this large body of land, he also has valuable holdings within the corporate limits of Willshire. His farm is one of the best improved in the whole township and he devotes his entire time to cultivating his land and increasing its productiveness. Like his father he has always been identified with the Democratic party, and like him is also one of the leading members of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In 1892 Mr. Schinnerer was united in marriage with Louisa Schumm, who was born in Dublin township, Mercer County, Ohio—an old schoolmate and a daughter of J. Frederick Schumm, of Mercer County. They have had four children, namely—William, Lydia, Frederick and Emma (who died when one year old). Mr. and Mrs. Schinnerer are highly respected residents of Willshire township, both

being members of well known and long established families. Their kindred are numerous and their circle of friends is wide.

A view of the Schinnerer home accompanies this sketch, being shown on a preceding page.



WILBUR C. LAWRENCE, clerk of Van Wert County, was born June 11, 1853, in the State of New York, and is a son of Cyrus and Clarinda (Bouton) Lawrence. The parents of Mr. Lawrence were natives of New York and reared a family of four children, the father being a merchant, for some years, but at a later period of his life, a well known practitioner of law.

Mr. Lawrence passed his boyhood and early manhood in his native place, coming to Van Wert County in January, 1882. At Van Wert, for 10 years he engaged in a hardware business, under the firm name of Bouton & Lawrence, and was also interested in a furniture manufacturing company. In the business difficulties which later came upon this company Mr. Lawrence served as receiver until its affairs were adjusted. For some six years he was also engaged in a general insurance business.

When Mr. Lawrence was first elected county clerk, he discontinued his insurance business for a time. His official service extended through the three years following 1896 and he was again chosen by the Republican party as its candidate for the county clerkship, but this election resulted in his defeat by 70 votes. He then resumed his insurance business until 1901, when he was again brought forward by his party and twice elected, first by a majority of 90 votes and the second time by 740. In the face of this record it is perhaps needless to add that he has proven himself a very effi-

cient public officer, and is popular with all who have business to transact through his office. He has been a life-long Republican and has always been in close accord with the local party leaders.

Mr. Lawrence was married to Clara B. Uhrich, a daughter of Cyrus Uhrich, and they have three children. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Personally Mr. Lawrence is a man of social impulses and genial manner, and is a very acceptable and faithful member of a number of fraternal organizations, including the Knights of Pythias, the Knights of the Macabees, the Modern Brotherhood of America, the Home Guards of America and the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Mr. Lawrence owns a handsome home at No. 502 North Market street, Van Wert.



ROBERT DOLBEY, one of Ridge township's representative citizens, a prominent farmer who is also identified with public affairs and educational and religious interests, owns a fine farm of 80 acres, which is situated in section 16, Ridge township. Mr. Dolbey was born January 31, 1848, in Delaware County, Ohio, and is a son of Robert and Elizabeth (Thomas) Dolbey.

Both parents of Mr. Dolbey were born in Wales. The father was 26 years of age when he came to America, locating first in the vicinity of Utica, New York. Later he removed to Delaware County, married there in 1845, settled for a short time in Greene County, and in 1855 located permanently in Van Wert County. He settled on the Jennings Prairie, in York township, from which he removed in 1865 to Washington township, where he lived until his death in October, 1891. He was a man of

sterling character, one who commanded the respect of all with whom business or friendship brought him into contact. He was a consistent member of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church.

In 1845 Robert Dolbey, father of our subject, was united in marriage with Elizabeth Thomas. She was born May 2, 1829, in Montgomeryshire, Wales, and was one of a family of 12 children who with their parents emigrated to America in 1829. They settled first near Utica, New York, but removed from there to Delaware County, Ohio, where, as mentioned above, the daughter Elizabeth was married to Robert Dolbey. She accompanied her husband to Van Wert County in 1856, residing for some years near Venedocia, and then coming to the homestead south of Middlepoint, in Washington township, where she died November 13, 1890. She was a faithful and earnest member of the Horeb Welsh Presbyterian Church. She was reverently esteemed by all who knew her. In her death Van Wert County lost one of its representative and valued pioneer women.

The children of Robert and Elizabeth (Thomas) Dolbey were nine in number, the survivors being: William T., of Delphos; Robert, the subject of this sketch; Margaret, wife of John W. Jones, of Washington township; Anna Eliza, wife of John Ringwald, of Ridge township; John L., of Washington township; and Mary, wife of Evan Morris, of York township.

Robert Dolbey, the second son of the above family, was reared to agricultural pursuits and obtained his education in the public schools of York township. In 1884 he settled on his present farm in section 16, Ridge township, where he has since been engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He has made many substantial improvements here and his property is conceded to be very valuable. Like his

late father, Mr. Dolbey is identified with the Republican party, but he has never consented to accept any except school offices. He has been one of the township's intelligent and interested school directors for many terms, and served as treasurer of the special school district of Ridge township.

On December 31, 1875, Mr. Dolbey was married to Elizabeth A. Summersett, who was born in Van Wert County, September 11, 1854, and is a daughter of John and Mary A. (Clendenning) Summersett. The father was born in Ross County, Ohio, and died January 5, 1888. The mother was born in Vermont, and died June 5, 1905. John Summersett and wife were early settlers in Van Wert County, coming before the Indians had disappeared. Of their children, the survivors are: John W., of Denver, Colorado; Elizabeth, wife of our subject; and Greenbury and Henry E., both of Washington township.

The children of Robert Dolbey and wife are: Mae, deceased; Laura B., wife of John Slattery, of Ridge township; and Abner G., who lives at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Dolbey are prominent members of the Ridge Methodist Episcopal Church, in which Mr. Dolbey has long been a trustee.



JOHN C. SCHUMM, a representative farmer of Willshire township, who owns a fine farm of 180 acres in section 22, was born on his present homestead December 29, 1849, and is a son of Louis and Barbara (Pillueger) Schumm. The father was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, and about 1833 accompanied his parents to America. He was a son of John Schumm, who emigrated from Germany and settled in Ohio, where he entered 800 acres of

land and was able to give each of his five children a farm of 160 acres. Our subject owns the farm which thus came to his father, who lived on it until his death, in 1854, aged 37 years—John C. being then five years of age. The deceased was a man of quiet tastes, devoted to his family and home. In politics he was a Democrat.

During his residence in Holmes County, prior to coming to Van Wert, Louis Schumm married Barbara Pflueger, who was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, December 28, 1822, accompanied her parents to America when nine years old, and now lives in Willshire township. After the death of Mr. Schumm, his widow married Adam Beuchner, who is now deceased. The children of Louis Schumm and wife were: Elizabeth (Schinnerer), of Willshire township; Marie (Schinnerer), deceased; Henry, of Willshire township; Rosa (Schinnerer), of California; Jacob, who died young; John C., of this sketch; Louis, of Willshire township; Hannah (Germann), of Harrison township; and George, who died in 1904. By her second marriage our subject's mother had two children, viz: Maggie (Kreismeyer) and William A. Beuchner, both of Willshire township.

John C. Schumm has spent his whole life on the old homestead, with the exception of two years in young manhood when he worked away from home. His farm consists of nearly 180 acres, his father having added 20 acres to the original 160, and two acres being railroad property. The many improvements upon the place make it a very attractive, as well as valuable homestead. Mr. Schumm has erected a fine modern home, has remodeled the barn and placed everything in proper condition; his land is also fertile, and is well adapted both to the growing of crops and the raising of first class live-stock. The farm has never been out

of the family, since it was originally entered by the grandfather and it is our subject's desire that it shall so continue. All the Schumms of this locality, and they are numerous, are people of substantial position.

In 1880 John C. Schumm was married to Wilhelmina Breuinger, who was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, August 22, 1858, and died here on January 28, 1899. She was a daughter of Louis and Maria Breuinger, natives of Germany, and the mother of these children: Victor A.; Hilda M. and Lydia B. (twins); Elizabeth C., Arnold L. and Saloma S. Mr. Schumm is a staunch Democrat, but he takes only a good citizen's interest in political campaigns, having no desire to hold office. Religiously he is a worthy member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.



WILLIAM BERRY KRUGH, one of the enterprising and successful farmers of Liberty township, residing on a well-developed farm of 80 acres—40 acres of which are located in section 27, and the remaining 40 acres in section 34—was born in York township, Van Wert County, on February 4, 1861. He is a son of John and Amanda (Custer) Krugh, both of whom are still residents of Liberty township. John Krugh is a native of Wayne County, Ohio; he later moved to Mercer County with his parents (who afterward settled in Van Wert County), and is at present one of the oldest pioneers of this county. He is the father of 12 children, eight of whom are living.

William B. Krugh, the subject of this sketch, spent his early boyhood in Mercer County, and when 13 years of age removed with his parents to Liberty township, where he

attended the district schools and has always been engaged in farming. In 1885 he was married to Marry Ellen Hertz, a daughter of J. F. Hertz, who also lives in Liberty township. They have had eight children: Charles Oscar, who married Cora Lichty, a daughter of George Lichty and has one child—Fredda; John Franklin; Bessie Ann, who died aged two years; Samuel Benjamin; Carrie Eugene; Edith Mary; Orlie Andrew and Velma May. Religiously Mr. Krugh is a member and an elder of the Church of God.

For four years after his marriage, Mr. Krugh was engaged in farming in Pleasant township, and in 1889 moved to Liberty township, where he purchased the tract of 40 acres upon which he has since resided. In 1899 he added 40 acres to this tract, the buildings being all situated on the original 40 acres in section 27. From time to time he has made many substantial improvements, developing the place into one of the best farms in the township. In 1904 he erected a fine large frame house, with all the modern improvements—including furnace, telephone, and various other conveniences. At various times he has also built a new barn and the other necessary outbuildings. Aside from its value for agricultural purposes, the worth of the land has been increased by the development of oil, there being at present five producing wells in operation.

OLIVER W. DUTTON, a highly esteemed citizen and leading agriculturist of the county, whose farm is located in section 35, Hoaglin township, was born in Perry County, this State, on September 9, 1854. His parents are John W. and Sarah (Parker) Dutton, the father

being a native of Perry County, and the mother, of Pennsylvania. The Parkers were of English origin. The paternal grandfather of our subject was James Dutton, who settled in Perry County when a young man.

Oliver W. Dutton was reared on a farm in his native county, and at an early age worked both at the carpenter's and blacksmith's trades, the latter of which he followed in connection with farm work for several years. In 1882 he located on his present farm of 40 acres in section 35, Hoaglin township, where he has since conducted agricultural operations. In addition to this he had a blacksmith shop for a number of years, doing all his own work until recent years, when he abandoned it to devote his entire attention to farming.

Mr. Dutton was married February 26, 1880, to Matilda Stemen, who was born in Perry county, Ohio, December 26, 1856, and is a daughter of George and Lydia (Burkholder) Stemen. Her grandfather was Nicholas Stemen who, in his early days settled in Perry county, where her father was born. Her parents are of German descent, her mother, who was a Pennsylvanian by birth, dying August 6, 1902. Mr. Stemen is in his 80th year and resides in Jackson township, this county. Mrs. Dutton has a sister, Martha, wife of Sanford Shockness who resides in Hoaglin township. Mr. and Mrs. Oliver W. Dutton have one daughter, Bertha M., who resides at home. They are both members of the United Brethren Church, of which Mr. Dutton is trustee. In politics he is a Democrat and is now serving his second term as trustee of Hoaglin township, being president of the board. For many years he has been on the township Board of Education, and is a gentleman who commands the confidence and respect of the entire community.

JOHN VOGT, a prominent and prosperous farmer of Washington township, has been a resident of this township for at least half a century. His farm is located in sections 1 and 12, and comprises 159 acres of land, which Mr. Vogt has converted into one of the finest modern, country homes in this county. He is up-to-date and progressive in his methods, and during the past summer completed the handsome residence now occupied by him, and which was built of cement blocks. Mr. Vogt was born in Switzerland, July 10, 1833, and is a son of John Jacob Vogt, who was a farmer and linen weaver of that country. In 1841 the mother died, and in 1854 the father with his two sons and two daughters came to America, settling in Washington township, where the younger son died two years later. Mr. Vogt took a 10 year lease upon a 30-acre tract of land, and gave his attention to farming. He passed away in 1895.

John Vogt was educated in his native land, and was 21 years of age when he accompanied his father to the United States. In 1860 he was married to Bertha Kundert, who was born in Italy, but of Swiss and German parentage. They have had 14 children, viz: John Jacob, Jr., born in 1861, educated in the Wisconsin Mission House and now a minister in the German Reform Church, who married Elizabeth Lahr and has six children; Mary, who is the wife of Charles Neely and resides near Lima; Margaret, who married William Allemeyer and is the mother of four children; Christopher, who married Lydia Funkey, has two children and resides in Decatur; Henry W., who married Katie Lahr (a sister of Mrs. John Jacob Vogt, Jr.), who died in December, 1905, leaving one child; Caroline, who married Charles Judkins, of Grover Hill, Paulding County; John Aaron, who married Nellie Mowery in

October, 1905; David, who married Laura Corderman, resides about two miles south of Middlepoint and has one child; Lewis George, who is unmarried; Elizabeth, the youngest of the family; Anna (Mrs. William Raabe), who was the mother of eight children, one of whom was taken to the spirit land but a short time before her own death in 1897; and three that passed away in infancy. Mr. Vogt is a member of the German Reform Church and is an elder of that body.



WILLIAM H. TROUP, auditor of Van Wert County, was born in this county, April 1, 1855, and is a son of Peter and Catherine (Heberling) Troup. His parents settled in Van Wert County as early as 1852, the father who died on his farm in January, 1885, having reared a family of six children.

William H. Troup reached maturity and was educated in his native county, the early years of his manhood being devoted to teaching, and the study of civil engineering. The latter profession he followed for some years, when he became assistant editor of the *Van Wert Times*, being connected with that journal for a period of 10 years and becoming well and favorably known throughout the county. Prior to his election to his present responsible public office, he served two terms as deputy auditor. In the fall of 1902 he was elected auditor, and reelected in 1905, his administration of the office having met with the universal approbation of those concerned.

Mr. Troup was united in marriage to Mary A. Pence, who is a daughter of a well known resident of this county. The pleasant family home is located at No. 633 North Washington street, Van Wert. Mr. and Mrs.



MR. AND MRS. RODOLPH W. INWOOD

Troup are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically Mr. Troup is a Democrat, and his fraternal associations include membership with the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Home Guards of America.

RODOLPH W. INWOOD, a director of the Van Wert County Infirmary, has been an occupant of his farm in section 17, Hoaglin township, since the spring of 1862, and is well known and respected by every one in his locality. He was born January 13, 1858, in Columbiana County, Ohio, and is a son of William J. and Ann (Kendell) Inwood, both of whom were born in England—the former in Warwickshire and the latter, in Leicestershire. The father was a sailor on the high seas for six years and ten months, shipping first when he was 14 years old. He was shipwrecked three times. In 1848 he and his wife embarked for America, taking passage in a sailing vessel, which was eight weeks in making the voyage from Liverpool to New Orleans. They first went to Evansville, Indiana, but soon afterward located at East Liverpool, Columbiana County, Ohio. In 1860 they became residents of Columbus, and in March, 1862, located in Van Wert County; having been from that year identified with the history of this section. William J. Inwood was a trustee of Hoaglin township and a Republican. He served three years in the Civil war, and was so unfortunate as to meet with a very serious injury in a railroad wreck between Covington and Chattanooga. His son, Rodolph W. Inwood, has often made the remark that if there was any one fact in which he has taken more pride than in any other it was that he had a father who was so loyal to

his adopted country that he was willing to sacrifice his life for the "Stars and Stripes" and the freedom of an enslaved race. William J. Inwood was a devout member of the Evangelical Association and his death, which occurred in September, 1903, was a loss to that organization and the entire community. His widow and four children survive him. William J. Inwood resides at Scott, Ohio; Rodolph W. Inwood is the subject of this article; Annie is the wife of A. W. Kohn, of Grover Hill, and Elizabeth A. is married to William J. Mohr. Mrs. Inwood, the widow, is in her 79th year, and makes her home with her daughter at Grover Hill.

Rodolph W. Inwood obtained his schooling in Van Wert County, where he has followed agricultural pursuits so successfully. He was married on November 20, 1880, to Mary A. Cahill, a native of Union County, Ohio, and a daughter of Asbury and Mary (Bird) Cahill. Mrs. Cahill is still residing in Union County and has almost reached the 70th mile-stone of life's journey. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Rodolph W. Inwood, namely: William A., who married Susan Mohr and resides in Hoaglin township; Orpha, who lives with her parents; and Lloyd, who died when one year and eight months old. Eleven years ago the parents of this family also adopted into their home a child of four years—Matilda Cooksey—who has lived with them since as a close member of the domestic circle. Among the family heirlooms most highly prized by Mr. Inwood is a tomahawk that was captured in the Revolutionary War by a near relative of his father, to whom it was given and who afterward presented it to his son, the subject of this sketch.

In the fall of 1904 Mr. Inwood was elected a director of the Van Wert County Infirmary for a term of three years, and in this capacity

has proven most efficient and faithful. He is a Republican, and both he and Mrs. Inwood are members of the Evangelical Association. Fraternally he is connected with the tent of the Improved Order of Red Men at Scott and to the Sons of Veterans, at Van Wert. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Inwood accompany this sketch.

JOHAN K. WAGERS, mayor of Wren, is one of the prominent men of Willshire township, where he owns a fine farm of 80 acres, a part of the old Wagers homestead, which is situated within a half mile of the village. He was born October 10, 1852, in Willshire township, and is a son of John and Anna (Johnson) Wagers.

John Wagers, the father, was born July 2, 1806, in Baltimore County, Maryland, and was 11 years old when he accompanied his parents to Harrison County, Ohio, where, in 1831, he married Anna Johnson. He was a son of Richard Wagers, a native also of Baltimore County, Maryland, who died in Harrison County, Ohio, and who was a son of Richard Wagers, who emigrated from Ireland, settled in Maryland and reared a large family. Richard Wager, the second, had four sons and one daughter, viz.: John, Nimrod, Joshua, Lemuel and Mary Ellen. John and Lemuel came to Van Wert County, but the others remained in Harrison County. Lemuel entered 80 acres in section 5, Willshire township, while John entered 240 acres in section 9 and 80 acres in section 8, and later bought 40 acres in section 9, having thus 360 acres in one body. He came to Van Wert County in 1837, with wife and three children, the other five children being born in this county.

The mother of our subject was born in Harrison County, Ohio, July 15, 1808, and

died in Willshire township on April 28, 1899, when within nine years of completing a century of life. For a few of her later years her eyesight had left her, but otherwise she was remarkably well preserved, a type of the pioneer women of other days. She was a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Davis) Johnson, natives of West Virginia, who came to Harrison County as pioneers, and about 1837 settled in Van Wert County. Joseph Johnson was a colonel in the War of 1812. The children of John Wagers and wife were: Rachel, deceased, who was the wife of John C. Tindall; Joseph Johnson, deceased; Mary, widow of James Neiferd, of Willshire township; Joshua, of Willshire township; Davis, a member of Company H, Fourth Reg., Ohio Vol. Cav., who probably died in the battle of Nashville, in the Civil War; Catherine, residing at Wren, widow of David S. Wolf, who also served in the Fourth Ohio Cavalry; Eliza Ellen, who died aged 10 years; and John K., of this sketch.

The parents of John K. Wagers lived on the homestead until their death, the father passing away there on February 16, 1892. He was a very industrious, exemplary man. He cleared 150 acres of his land, in the meantime living in a log cabin which he erected when he settled on it. He was a man of standing in his neighborhood, served as township trustee and was interested in both schools and church, being a leading member of the Baptist Church at Pleasant View.

John K. Wagers remained on the homestead farm until he was 30 years of age and then purchased a farm of 100 acres in section 4, Pleasant township, which he farmed for four years, and then sold and returned to the homestead. In 1899 he came to Wren, but still retains his farm in Willshire township. He has been one of the representative men of

the town ever since locating here, has served two terms as councilman and is serving his second term as mayor, giving the people a clean, public-spirited administration. Politically he is a Republican.

On November 4, 1874, Mr. Wagers was married to Margaret Bowen, who was born September 18, 1853, in Willshire township, and is a daughter of Cyrus and Mary (McQueen) Bowen, natives of Pennsylvania, who came from Crawford County to Van Wert in 1837 and were married here. The mother of Mrs. Wagers still survives and resides in Willshire township.

Our subject is one of the most active members of the United Brethren Church, of which he is a trustee. He is secretary of the quarterly conference, and for some 30 years was a class-leader and for a long period he was superintendent of the Sunday-school. He belongs to a family which has been noted in Willshire township for its reliability, intelligence and good citizenship for almost 70 years.

JOSEPH FRIEDRICH, deceased, was born in Huntington, Indiana, December 1, 1855, and was quite young when he came to Van Wert County, Ohio, and located in Washington township, where he became one of the leading agriculturists. He was married October 17, 1882, to Mary Reindel, who bore him 11 children, all of whom are at home, viz.: Katie, George, Anna, Mary, Evaline, Carl, Francis, Joseph, Lucile, Eleanor and Amilda. Mr. Friedrich also has two brothers and two sisters who reside near him, namely: Mrs. Mary Smith of Delphos; Mrs. Dan Reddington; Anthony and George.

Joseph Friedrich was a hardworking man

and a good manager, and at his death, May 18, 1904, left to his widow a valuable farm of 110 acres in sections 28 and 29, Washington township. He was a devout Catholic, a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio, and a man whose sterling principles and upright life made him a power in the community, his death being a distinct loss to the community and keenly felt by the many who were bound to him by ties of kinship and friendship.

Mrs. Mary Friedrich, the widow, is a daughter of George and Barbara Reindel, both of whom were natives of Germany and were married in Bern. They came to the United States in 1845 and settled in Van Wert County, Ohio, on 40 acres of land which they purchased from the government, this acreage being later increased to 130, which now constitutes the home of two of the sons, George and Joseph Reindel. There were 12 children in the family, eight of whom are living at this time. George Reindel, Mrs. Friedrich's father, died April 21, 1895. He was a member of St. Joseph's Society and a man who enjoyed the good opinion of all who knew him.

DAVID J. JONES, one of the prominent citizens and leading agriculturists of York township, resides on his finely improved farm of 175 acres situated in section 34. He was born March 27, 1850, in Jackson County, Ohio, and is a son of John H. and Mary (Edwards) Jones, natives of Wales, who both died in the county named, the former in 1892 and the latter in 1893.

For a number of years during his early manhood, Mr. Jones engaged in school-teaching and two of his sons are similarly employed. Although a practical farmer, Mr. Jones has taken an interest in other lines than

agricultural and has been prominently identified with the township's public affairs. Since 1887 he has been serving as justice of the peace in York township, enjoying a reputation for legal knowledge and sound judgment second to no like official in this part of the county, having satisfactorily adjudicated in a number of complex cases.

In Jackson County, Ohio, in 1877, David J. Jones was married to Lizzie Lewis, who is a daughter of David and Eliza (Davis) Lewis, natives of Wales. The father died in Jackson County, in 1888, and the mother in 1878, while on a visit to her daughter in Van Wert County. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Jones are: John L.; Lizzie A.; David E.; Mary Edith, who died July 2, 1888, and was buried in the Venedocia Cemetery; Ada C.; Mary; and Evan E. Mrs. Jones died April 7, 1902, after a lingering illness of several months, and was buried in the Venedocia Cemetery. The children of the family have been liberally educated, and are prominent in the intellectual and social circles of the community. Mr. Jones is one of the broad-minded, clear-headed men of this locality and keeps fully abreast of the times. He is an elder in the Zion Calvinistic Methodist Church, which is located northwest of his home.



HENRY H. LUDWIG, formerly county commissioner of Van Wert County, and one of the leading agriculturists of Hoaglin township, where he owns a fine farm of 277 acres in section 23, was born November 17, 1862, in York County, Pennsylvania, and is a son of William W. and Caroline (Stiles) Ludwig.

William W. Ludwig, father of our subject is one of the substantial farmers and best-known citizen of Hoaglin township, where he

settled in May, 1884. He was born in Baltimore County, Maryland, July 8, 1838, and is a son of John and Eve (Hildebrand) Ludwig, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Bavaria, Germany. In 1844 William W. Ludwig accompanied his parents to Crawford County, Ohio, where the family resided for several years and then removed to Seneca County, and later to Hancock County, where William W. grew to manhood.

In April, 1862, William W. Ludwig was married in York County, Pennsylvania, to Mrs. Caroline Smith, widow of Charles Smith and a daughter of Thomas and Catherine (Strayer) Stiles. Her father was of English extraction; her mother was born in Pennsylvania, of German ancestry. The children of William W. Ludwig and wife were: Henry H., of Hoaglin township; Lydia A., wife of Joel Glover, of Los Angeles, California; Amelia, wife of Homer Cheasman, of Hoaglin township; John W., of De Kalb County, Indiana; and Della, wife of Joseph E. Mohr, of Union township. The surviving children of Mrs. Ludwig's first marriage are: Sophia, wife of William Barnes, of York County, Pennsylvania, and Charles F., of Oceana County, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig are members of the Evangelical Association. In politics he is a Democrat and is serving his second term as justice of the peace. He belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge at Scott, Ohio. He has been more or less prominent in public affairs ever since locating in Hoaglin township, which he has served as township trustee. He is familiarly known as 'Squire Ludwig, and is a very popular justice of the peace.

Henry H. Ludwig has been a resident of Hoaglin township since 1884, and has resided on his present farm since the fall of 1885. Most of his education was received in Richland County, Ohio, where his parents lived before



MIC. AND MRS. NAAMAN DRUBAKER AND FAMILY

coming to Van Wert County. For several years after coming here, Mr. Ludwig followed carpentering but, in the main, he has devoted himself to agricultural pursuits. His first purchase of land was made with money he had accumulated by work at his trade. He invested \$800 in 80 acres of land, going into debt to the amount of \$2,400. This debt he soon paid, and in a short time was in a position to buy more land. He continued to add to his holdings until he now owns a splendid farm of 277 acres of well-cultivated land. He has the reputation of being one of the county's best farmers.

Mr. Ludwig married Jennie McCracken, who was born in Hancock County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Hiram B. and Mary A. (Stough) McCracken, the former of whom resides at Findlay, Ohio. Her mother is deceased. Two sons were born to this marriage, O. Leonard and Charles H.

For many years Mr. Ludwig has been one of the county's prominent men in public life. In the fall of 1894 he was elected a commissioner of Van Wert County, and entered upon the duties of his office on September 16, 1895. He served for three years and during the last year was president of the board. His administration covered many important improvements in the County and his record as a presiding officer is one he may recall with pride. For 11 years he has served as a member of the School Board. He is one of the highly esteemed citizens of Hoaglin township.



NAAMAN BRUBAKER, one of the substantial farmers of Liberty township, owner and operator of 176 acres of farm land in section 31, was born in this township on December 12, 1849, and is a son of Peter and Catherine (Dull) Brubaker.

The parents were natives respectively of Franklin and Fayette Counties, Pennsylvania. Peter Brubaker came to Van Wert County in 1840 (before his marriage) and bought land in what afterward became Liberty township, which he assisted in organizing. He first built a log house and later erected a frame house—the first to be erected in Liberty township, which is still standing and occupied by his son, Naaman, the subject of this sketch. He was a carpenter by trade and was paid in land for his work. His first wife died shortly after their marriage in July, 1840. In 1844 he was united to Catherine Dull, who was born in Fayette County, Ohio, and in 1839 came from Stark to Van Wert County, being accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Wiant. Peter Brubaker and his wife became the parents of 10 children, of whom Naaman was the third in order of birth. Mr. Brubaker died July 12, 1898; his wife is still living at the advanced age of 81 years.

Naaman Brubaker was reared in his native township, was educated in the old school district No. 1, and also studied under Hon. Augustus L. Sweet, now judge of probate, who was at the time boarding at his father's house. With the exception of two years Mr. Brubaker has spent his entire life in Liberty township. He was married on December 12, 1875, to Ellen Lintemoot, a daughter of Martin and Amanda Lintemoot, who were old settlers of Liberty township. They have had 16 children, as follows: Charles Victor; Ira Raymond; Ada Grace, who married Melvin Myers and has two children—Vance and Gerald; Pearl; Nevada, wife of Benjamin Frisinger, of Lima, and the mother of one son; Amanda; James G. Blaine, who married Cecil Sutton, lives in Mansfield, Ohio, and has one child—Lucile; Edna Frances (Mrs. Earl C. Thompson), of Mansfield, Ohio; Meredith; Annetta; Clara; Bessie, and Oressa; all of the above are living.

while Lizzie; Chesney; Russell and Arta are deceased. Mr. Brubaker has served his township in the capacity of clerk; is a member and trustee of the United Brethren Church, and politically is a Republican. A picture of the Brubaker family accompanies this sketch.

HENRY C. GERDEMANN, whose farm is situated in section 33, Washington township, was born in Delphos, Van Wert County, April 3, 1857, being a son of Henry J. and Mary Ann Gerdemann, who were among the most prominent residents of the county. His parents were natives of Germany, the father coming to America at the age of 20, and the mother, at the age of seven years. After residing in Delphos for a time, in 1859 they moved to the Gerdemann farm in Washington township, where Henry J. Gerdemann accumulated a large property, being at the time of his death, November 16, 1903, one of the wealthiest farmers in the township. His wife survived him until October 19, 1905.

Henry C. Gerdemann was married November 15, 1883, to Anna Pohl, a daughter of Henry Pohl, of Putnam County, Ohio, and a family of four children have been born to them, viz: Joseph, February 19, 1887; Katie Mary, December 26, 1888, who died September 3, 1903; Minnie, October 9, 1891; and Clara, March 21, 1894. Mr. Gerdemann has given his continuous attention to farming, remaining on the home place until the spring following his marriage, when he moved to a farm of 83 acres which was given to him by his father. The place had a new house upon it, but the land was covered with timber, which Mr. Gerdemann cleared off, converting the once wooded tract into a fine,

productive property, from which he thoroughly understands how to get the largest yield. Mr. Gerdemann applied himself so diligently to his work that his health was seriously impaired and he was told by his physicians that the only means of saving his life would be to submit to a surgical operation. The first trip away from home in which he ever indulged was to the sanitarium at Battle Creek, Michigan, where he underwent a very delicate operation for stomach trouble. He remained there three months, with the gratifying result of almost complete recovery of his health. Mr. Gerdemann and his family are members of St. John's Catholic Church, and are highly respected members of their community.

JOSEPH H. AUER is a product of Van Wert County, having been born March 17, 1858, on the farm upon which he still resides in section 28, Washington township. His parents, Joseph and Barabara Auer, were natives of Bavaria, Germany, and came to America in the same sailing vessel, the journey keeping them on the ocean for 56 days. Coming at once to Delphos they were married in October, 1857, by Father Bredeick, founder of St. John's Catholic Church of that place and settled on a small farm of 50 acres which through the intervention of friends, had been secured for them before their arrival. To the original farm was afterward added 70 acres, the combined tract being their life-long homestead. Mrs. Auer passed away January 30, 1877, and Mr. Auer May 23, 1899. They had a family of six children, namely: Barbara (Mrs. Henry Busch); George, of Toledo; Joseph; Mary (Mrs. Louis Schaffner); John Landeck; Michael, a resident of Iowa.

Annie (Mrs. Theodore Reddelberger), who died February 21, 1905.

Joseph H. Auer was educated in Van Wert County, where he grew to manhood and is now one of the leading farmers of his section. He is the owner of a farm of 120 acres in section 28, having purchased of the heirs their interest in his father's old homestead, and is a man whose industry and worth command the respect and esteem of all.

Mr. Auer has been twice married—in October 18, 1883, to Clara, daughter of Matthias Heitz, of Landeck. Mrs. Clara Auer died January 2, 1896, leaving four children—Laura, Edward, Arthur and George. The second and present wife was Mrs. Mary (Gehlert) Brueckner, widow of Frank Brueckner, and by her he has had three children—Madeline, Irene and Viola. Mrs. Auer being the mother of one child, Amy, by her first marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Auer are members of St. John's Catholic Church and of the Catholic Knights of Ohio.

HENRY ELLER, a pioneer of the county, resides on a farm of 80 acres in section 14, Hoaglin township, in which township he is well known and highly esteemed. He was born in Crawford County, Ohio, July 4, 1839, and is a son of John and Susannah (Keith) Eller, natives of the State of Pennsylvania, who first located (with their parents) in Richland County, Ohio, where they were married, soon afterward removing to Crawford County, where they remained a short time. They then returned to Richland County, and later settled in De Kalb County, Indiana, where they resided about eight years, and thence came to Van Wert County, where, about two years

afterward, the father died. The deceased was a Whig in politics, and in religion a member of the United Brethren Church, as was also his wife. Of the children born to this couple, Henry Eller alone survives. As long as his mother lived, Mr. Eller remained with her and cared for her, and, about 40 years ago, she finally passed to her reward.

Henry Eller was reared on a farm, has always followed that occupation and since 1853 has been located in Hoaglin township. He is a man of industrious habits and keen observation, and, consequently, has been eminently successful in his chosen vocation. His farm, originally covered with brush and timber, has been brought to its present state of improvement by his own persistent efforts. The progress achieved by science, during his residence here of more than half a century, would have been regarded as a wild flight of the imagination, had it been prophesied to the men who braved the pioneer dangers and hardships of his day and settled in a country where a bridle path often represented the public highway, the tallow dip furnished the only light and stoves were only a luxury for the extravagance of fashion. Mr. Eller is a Democrat and a man of sound convictions. He is a member of Mount Pleasant United Brethren Church, of Hoaglin township, and a citizen who is esteemed for what he is and what he has done for the progress of the community.

WILLIAM STOVE, one of the most highly respected retired citizens of Willshire, the owner of a fine farm of 120 acres in section 28, Willshire township, is also a survivor of the great Civil war, in which he suffered an injury, which permanently impaired the sight of one

eye. Mr. Stove was born in the parish of Breedon, Leicestershire, England, October 8, 1828, and is a son of John and Catherine (Leawood) Stove, natives of the above named parish.

Mr. Stove belongs to an old landed family of England; but his father was a tailor and draper in his native land. In order to provide better opportunities for his large family, John Stove decided to emigrate to America, and in the spring of 1838 sailed from Liverpool on the old ship "Albion" for the land of promise. She was an old sailing vessel of 900 tons and the passage covered 37 days. Landing at New York, they journeyed to Albany, then by way of the Erie Canal to Buffalo and across Lake Huron on the ship "Bunker Hill," to Richland County, Ohio. The father and mother both died within two weeks of each other, in Wood County, Ohio, and both were buried at Fostoria. The father was then 71 years of age and the mother about 68. He was a very loyal man during the Civil war, giving all of his sons to the army, and paying the sum of \$600 when a draft was ordered in the township. His children were: Elizabeth, William, Joseph, John, George, Thomas, Mary Ann, Edmund, Hannah, Priscilla and Sarah. Seven members of this family never married and three of the sisters, Mary Ann, Priscilla and Sarah, reside together at Fostoria. Hannah died unmarried. Elizabeth also resides at Fostoria—she is the widow of Solomon Whistler, who was killed at the battle of Chickamauga.

Of the sons, all participated in the Civil war. Joseph was a member of Shover's battery in the Mexican War, and served 13 years in the United States Navy. He had charge of a vessel at Charleston stockade and captured a good prize. He now resides at Avonia, Pennsylvania. John, a printer, was in the

South when the war broke out and, on account of his loyal sentiments, lost all he possessed. He came north and served one year in the Union Army. He died at Cincinnati in the year following the death of his parents, and was buried at Fostoria. He was unmarried. George was also a soldier, and was accidentally killed by his horse, at the age of 31 years. Thomas served one year with our subject in the 46th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf. Edmund, now a resident of Bloomdale, Wood County, Ohio, was a member of the 49th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., and was with his brother-in-law, Mr. Whistler, when the latter met his death.

In close connection with the above we append the war record of our subject. In October, 1861, he enlisted in Company E, 46th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., under Captain Pinney and Colonel Worthington, and under these brave officers took part in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth and Vicksburg. In these fearful battles he escaped much, but suffered an injury to his eye which at first sent him to a hospital and in 1864 caused his discharge, on account of disability. For several years he was rendered almost sightless. He was awarded first a pension of \$8 per month; later this was increased to \$12; but no amount could compensate for the loss he suffered. His record is that of a brave and efficient soldier. He was a member of Heath Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Willshire, until it was discontinued.

Going back to his earlier life and relating its events outside his connection with public matters,—Mr. Stove remained at home with his parents until he was 22 years of age. He worked industriously by the day or month as duty demanded, until 1851. For two years, 1849 and 1850, he worked on the construction of the Pennsylvania Railroad, in Warren County, Ohio, and in 1851 he moved to Fostoria.

Creek township, Mercer County, where he entered 40 acres of land and also bought 40 acres. The former was what was denominated canal land, and was located about six miles from Willshire. He made many improvements on this property, on which he remained until the spring of 1861, when he moved to Van Wert County. In that year he bought the Bolenbaugh farm, which was first settled upon in 1822. This is one of the oldest settled farms in Van Wert County, and comprises 92 acres on the river. After the close of the army service, mentioned above, Mr. Stove returned to this farm and continued to reside on it until 1871, when he sold it advantageously, and bought what was known as the Tague farm, consisting of 120 acres, in section 28, Willshire township, a short distance north of his former farm. This is now occupied by his son, Mr. Stove having in 1903 retired to Willshire, where he has a very comfortable home.

In 1851 Mr. Stove was married to Mary E. Widmer, who was born in Wayne County, Ohio, in March, 1832, and died on the farm in November, 1891. She was the estimable daughter of Frederick Widmer, who was born in Switzerland and emigrated to America, spending the greater part of his life in Wayne County, Ohio. Mrs. Stove was a good, Christian woman, and was admired and beloved by everyone for her many admirable traits.

The children of our subject and wife were: Clara M., who is the widow of Samuel Fairchild, of Willshire; Sarah Elizabeth, who is the wife of A. Tindall, of Albany, Indiana; Medora, who is the wife of B. Nye, a resident of Mercer County, Ohio; John, still mourned by the family, who was 24 years old when he left home 20 years ago and has never since been heard from; Ida, who died a babe; Edwin, who died aged four years; Kate, deceased at the age of six years; Frederick, deceased

at the same age; Clinton, who is a successful hardware merchant of Willshire; Arthur and Armond (twins), the former a resident of Adams County, Indiana—the latter deceased in infancy; Monroe, who died in infancy; Willard, who is a telegraph operator on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad in Utah; and one that died in infancy. Mr. Stove has a number of his children settled closely around him.

Politically he has been identified with the Democratic party the whole of his life, and he has frequently been called upon to serve his township in public offices. For two years he was township clerk, and for 20 years he was a member of the School Board of Willshire township, his service only ending when he positively refused to serve longer. He has seen all this section wonderfully developed, and has done his full share in assisting in the good work. The evening of life is being quietly spent among comfortable surroundings, and he is assured on all sides of the respect and esteem in which he is held.



FRANK A. CRAMER, one of the substantial citizens of Van Wert, now engaged in contracting and building, and enjoying a large measure of prosperity, was born in May, 1855, near Bloomville, Seneca County, Ohio, and is a son of John and Anna E. (Shaffner) Cramer.

The Cramer family is of German stock, and its founder in America was Helfar Cramer, a Revolutionary patriot. He settled in York County, Pennsylvania, after the close of the Revolutionary War, and there were born both the father and grandfather of our subject. In 1840 the grandfather (John Cramer), came to Ohio and settled on a farm in Seneca County, where he died in 1856. He was a

soldier in the War of 1812, serving with the rank of captain; he married Catherine Schlote, of Pennsylvania, and was the father of nine children.


John Cramer, the second, father of Frank A. Cramer, was born in York County, Pennsylvania, October 9, 1821, and died at Van Wert, November 11, 1905. He came to Ohio with his parents when 18 years of age and lived in Seneca County until 1864; then moved to Pleasant township, Van Wert County, where he bought 120 acres of land. At the time of his death he owned 75 acres of finely improved, fertile land. John Cramer was married December 29, 1847, to Ann E. Shaffner, who was born in Crawford County, Ohio, September 17, 1830, and died at Van Wert, March 28, 1901. Nine children were born to their union, as follows: John W. and William J., both deceased; Sarah C., wife of John W. Balyeat, of Middlebury, Indiana; Frank A. and Ralph W., of Van Wert; Irene H., wife of J. W. Kensler, of Ridge township; Anna E., who resides with her sister Irene H.; Martin S., of Ohio City; and Charles B., a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, stationed at Spencerville, Ohio.

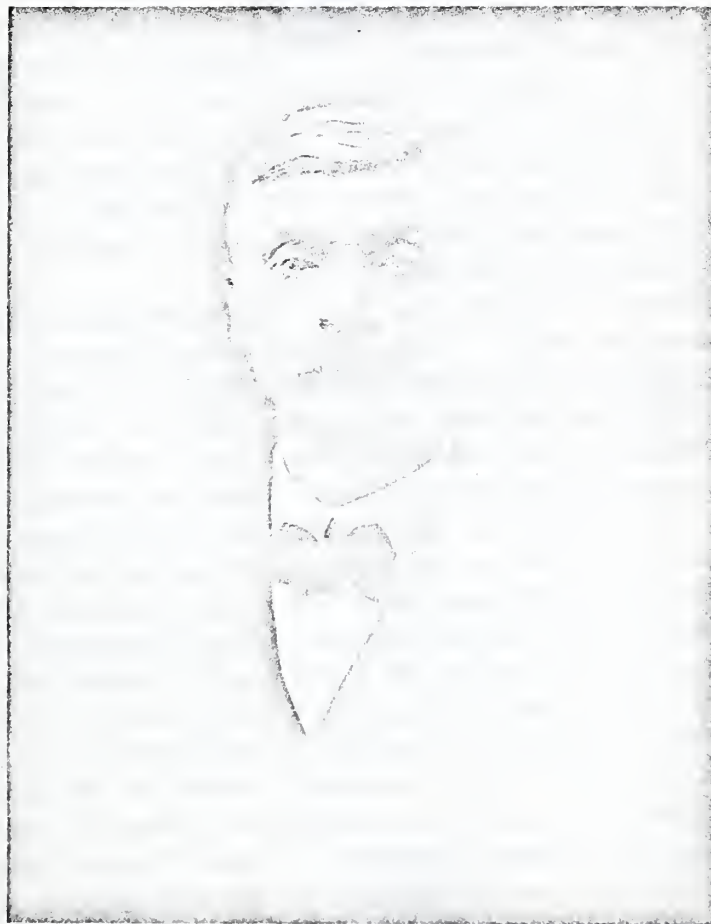
Frank A. Cramer was nine years old when his parents came to Pleasant township and settled on the farm which is located just outside the city limits of Van Wert. He remained on the family homestead until he was 21 years of age, and in the meantime acquired a good common-school education. He then passed several years away from home, traveling over about 14 States, working at various occupations and having many adventures; but when he found himself 1,000 miles from home, with only three cents in his pocket, he wisely decided to return to that safe harbor as soon as possible. He met with a ready and hearty welcome, and, while not desiring to become a

farmer, found this a fine locality in which to learn the carpenter's trade, and, for the past 12 years has been a leader at Van Wert in the building and contracting line. Prior to entering into business for himself, he worked for 13 years for one employer. About 1901 he built his own shop on Jackson street, which is a commodious establishment two stories in height, with dimensions of 48 by 50 feet. Mr. Cramer gives employment to from 12 to 15 men, and has successfully carried through a number of very large contracts, at present erecting a \$30,000 structure for the Central Manufacturers' Mutual Insurance Company, the finest building ever erected in the city.

In 1882 Mr. Cramer was married to Kate P. Harris, daughter of Elijah and Ann Harris, of this county, and they have two children—Hazel and Milo. He is the owner of the beautiful family residence at No. 314 North Jefferson street, which he built, and now occupies; has a half interest in three other dwellings; is administrator of his father's estate and is contemplating the platting of the old homestead farm.

Politically Mr. Cramer is a Republican. Fraternally he is a Mason and an Odd Fellow; religiously he is connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church and is one of the stewards.

 OHN GEORGE HEYMAN, treasurer of Hoaglin township, is a prominent farmer of the township. He resides on his farm of 80 acres in section 16—an estate that is kept in a high state of cultivation. Mr. Heyman was born in Huron County, this State, February 16, 1863, and is a son of Philip A. and Catherine (Kurtz) Heyman, both of whom were born in Germany. Our subject's parents were married in Huron



THOMAS C. LEPLEY

County, Ohio, and lived there until about 1864. when they brought their family to Van Wert County and located in Hoaglin township. Here the father died in 1872. The children were as follows: Henry P., of Hoaglin township; Charles, deceased; John George; Mary (Mrs. Frederick Merkle), who resides in Michigan; Edward W., a resident of Genesee County, Michigan; Robert A., of Gratiot County, Michigan; and Elizabeth C., of Monroe County, Michigan. After the death of Mr. Heyman, his widow became the wife of John Metz of Huron County. Later they removed to Monroe County, Michigan, where she now resides.

John George Heyman grew to manhood in Hoaglin township, where he acquired a public school education. Later he went to Michigan where for seven years he engaged in agriculture. In 1901 he moved to his present premises, which he has greatly improved and converted into a most desirable country home. On March 22, 1894, Mr. Heyman was married to Ella M. West, a native of Seneca County, Ohio, and a daughter of Alexander D. and Sarah (Swigart) West. Her father is a deceased and her mother, a lady of 65 years, lives with her daughter, Mrs. E. M. Crow, in Hoaglin township. Mrs. Heyman has a brother, C. S. West, living in Hoaglin township, and two brothers, George T. and William J. West, residing in Seneca County. Mrs. Heyman has resided in this county since 1891 when she came here with her mother. She is the mother of four children, viz: Hazel W., who died in infancy; Corwin G.; Edna M. and Norma C. Mrs. Heyman is an earnest Christian woman and a member of the Evangelical Association, of which Mr. Heyman is a regular attendant. Mr. Heyman is a Democrat and is now serving on the township board of education. Being a

man of ability and great force of character, he commands the respect and confidence of his fellow-men.

THOMAS C. LEPLEY, assessor of Ridge township, and a prosperous farmer of this section, was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, November 11, 1851. His parents were Jacob and Eleanor (Creighton) Lepley, who came to this county early in the '60's and settled on the farm now occupied by our subject. They were active workers in the Presbyterian Church, of which Jacob Lepley was an elder, and stood high among their neighbors as conscientious, God-fearing people. While the father was a Republican and took an intelligent interest in politics, he was in no way a politician and desired only to see those candidates elected who would best discharge their duties. He passed away March 14, 1902, and his wife on July 10, 1895, having rounded out most honorable and useful lives. Six children survive them: Susanna, residing at North Baltimore, Ohio; who is the wife of S. M. Hickman; Mary E., wife of J. R. Crooks, of Van Wert; Thomas C.; Nancy E., wife of L. C. Callahan, of Ridge township; Omar, a resident of Hastings, Nebraska; and William J., of Ridge township.

Thomas C. Lepley has spent his entire life in Ridge township and received his education in the public schools here. He has been very successful in his farming operations and owns a fine tract of 120 acres which is in a high state of cultivation. Mr. Lepley is a bachelor, and is a public-spirited, enterprising man who may always be relied upon to shoulder his share of the work designed for the good of the community. He served as clerk of Ridge township four years and is at this time assessor, dis-

charging his duties in a highly commendable manner. Religiously Mr. Lepley is a member of the Presbyterian Church at Middlepoint and a trustee of that organization. His portrait accompanies this sketch.

BENJAMIN J. LINDEMAN, a well-known agriculturist of Washington township, was born November 22, 1872, in Covington, Kentucky, and is a son of Joseph and Mary Lindeman, the biography of the former appearing elsewhere in this work. In 1875 the parents came to Ohio and purchased a tract of 80 acres in section 27, Washington township, which has since been the home of Benjamin J. Lindeman and was inherited by him at the death of his father in June, 1898.

Mr. Lindeman is one of the progressive young farmers of the county and is the owner of a well-improved homestead, the large barn, which was built in 1895, being one of the many improvements placed upon the property. He carries on general farming and has been very successful. Mr. Lindeman was married May 17, 1898, to Emma Martz, daughter of John Martz, of Washington township. They have two bright children—Raymond A., born June 19, 1901, and Joseph E., born February 6, 1903. Mr. Lindeman is a prominent member of St. John's Catholic Church of Delphos and of the Catholic Knights of Ohio.

ROSCOE GRANT SMITH, a well-known farmer of Liberty Township, who owns and resides on a farm of 80 acres in section 13, is a son of John A. and Rebecca F. (Hardenbrook) Smith.

John A. Smith, the father, was a native

of Germany, and when about six years old, came with his mother to America. His father had died in Germany, and his mother came to this country with her two children, locating in Pennsylvania, where she lived for some time and was later married. When a young man, John A. Smith went to California, during the gold excitement, remaining there for about four years, when he returned and settled in Miami County, Ohio. In September, 1854, he was married to Rebecca F. Hardenbrook, who is still living and resides on a farm of 80 acres directly across the road from the residence of her son, Roscoe G. Smith. Mr. and Mrs. John A. Smith were the parents of five children, as follows: Lucinda J., wife of John F. Keller, of Peoria, Illinois; Cora L., living at home; Ralso L., who resides in Mercer County, Ohio; Celia G., wife of W. E. Barfield, of Peoria, Illinois; and Roscoe Grant.

Roscoe G. Smith was reared on his father's farm, was married to L. A. Thomas and they have had the following five children: Paul W., who died at the age of two years; Lelia May; Hazel Grace; Fern B., who died at the age of 19 months; and Walter B. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Methodist Church and in politics our subject is a Republican.

HENRY WIECHART, deceased, who was a well-to-do agriculturist of Washington township, was born in Hanover, Germany, January 20, 1831, and was a son of Henry Wiechart, a farmer of that locality. Coming to America at the age of 15, he came at once to Ohio and took up his residence at Delphos, where, by industry and economy, he became the owner of 93 acres of land in section 11, Washington township, where Mrs. Wiechart resides. He took a great interest in all public improve-

ments and for two terms proved one of the most satisfactory supervisors Washington township ever had. He was a devout member of St. John's Catholic Church and a citizen in whom his community took a just pride.

In 1859 Henry Wiechart was married, at Delphos, by Father John Otto Bredeick, the founder of Catholicism in that place, to Mary Trentman. Mrs. Mary Riechart was born in Hanover, Germany, February 26, 1839, and was a child of six years when her parents came to the United States and settled on a farm west of Delphos; her mother died in 1854 and her father, February 14, 1895. A family of 12 children blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Wiechart, of whom the following eight are living: Mary E.; Henry J., who married Winifred A. Clark and is the father of two children—Elizabeth E. and Nellie M.; Ferdinand A., who married Rosa Wanamaker; Frank T. and Benjamin, both at home; Theodore F., who works on the railroad at Dubuque, Iowa; and Agnes and Gregora, who also live at home. Frank and Ferdinand own 80 acres of land in Washington township. Since the death of her husband in October, 1891, Mrs. Wiechart has continued to live on the home farm, where she is in the enjoyment of the best of health and, although a woman of 67 years, might readily pass for one of 50.

JOHN OSCAR ARMSTRONG, whose death occurred November 15, 1901, was for many years one of the well-known and representative farmers of Washington township, and was engaged in operating a thoroughly developed and finely improved farm in section 18. Mr. Armstrong was born in a log cabin on the farm now occupied by his widow, being a son of Thomas

and Sarah Ann (Saum) Armstrong. He was reared in Washington township, and obtained his education in the district schools of the vicinity. Throughout his early manhood he assisted on his father's farm, and during his entire later life engaged in agricultural pursuits on the old homestead farm. The Armstrong family was at one time among the largest land owners of Washington township, Thomas Armstrong, father of our subject, having at one time between 300 and 400 acres of land.

On January 25, 1874, John O. Armstrong was married to Christina Foster, a daughter of John and Mary (Bowers) Foster. John Foster was born and raised in Perry County, where his father (George Foster) was one of the pioneer farmers.

Mrs. Christina Armstrong was born in Perry County, Ohio, on November 1, 1853, and in 1866, when 13 years old, came to Van Wert County with her parents, who settled on a farm of 80 acres, three miles west of Middlepoint, Ridge Township. Her father died the following year; her mother lived until September, 1887. Mr. and Mrs. John Foster had the following eight children: Catherine, Daniel and Adam, who died during infancy; Mary, who married Albert Moore, of Ridge township; Elizabeth, who died aged 23 years; Samuel, who married Hannah Frey, of Xenia, Ohio, where the couple now live; Christina, widow of John O. Armstrong; and Emma (Laman), who resides in Middlepoint.

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong had 10 children, all living: Charles, who married Catherine White, lives in Middlepoint, and is the father of Fane, Guy and Virgil (deceased in infancy); Arthur, employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad, who lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana; Mary Ellen, who married James Rayer, of Van Wert and has one child, Christina; and

Thomas, May, Frank, Minnie and Minta (twins), Josephine Pearl and Lee Owen, all living at home. Religiously the family are members of the Lutheran Church.



CHARLES LONGWELL, a representative agriculturist of Jackson township, whose well-improved farm of 80 acres is situated in section 30, was born in this township on April 3, 1863, and is a son of George and Mary (Sheets) Longwell.

The parents of Mr. Longwell were pioneer settlers in Jackson township, locating here in 1851. The father was a native of Delaware County, Ohio, and the mother of Virginia. After a long and useful life, George Longwell died on his farm in Jackson township in July, 1872. His wife survived him until April 2, 1901. They were worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the parents of a family of 13 children.

Charles Longwell was reared in Jackson township and was educated in the district schools. He was early trained in agricultural pursuits, for which he has always had a leaning, and has proved a successful farmer and stock-raiser. His fine estate is known as "Brook Side Farm." For some time Mr. Longwell has made a specialty of raising thoroughbred Percheron horses, and has done much to increase interest in this specialty and to improve general agricultural methods in his section of the county.

On February 14, 1901, Charles Longwell was married to Herma Downing, who was born September 7, 1881, in Jackson township, Van Wert County, and is a daughter of Israel and Amelia (Hamilton) Downing, both natives of Ohio, who settled in Jackson township

shortly after the close of the Civil war. Mr. and Mrs. Downing are members of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church of Jackson township. Of their children, the survivors are: Reuben W., of Middlepoint; Vashti, wife of Leroy Leist, of Allen County, Ohio; Perry, of Hoaglin township; Olive, wife of Marion Cowgill, of Pleasant township; Maria, wife of John Phillips, of Allen County, Ohio; Leafa, wife of Reuben Thatcher, of Jackson township; Herma, wife of our subject; and Charles R., of Jackson township.

Mr. and Mrs. Longwell are members of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church of Jackson township. Mr. Longwell has been a very active worker in the various agricultural organizations in his section of the county; is a charter member, and for a number of years was master, of Washington Grange, No. 1327, Patrons of Husbandry; is also identified with the State Grange, and on two different occasions has represented Van Wert County as a delegate to that body. He belongs also to Pomona Grange, of Van Wert County, and is a director of the Van Wert County Agricultural Society. Politically Mr. Longwell is a Republican; but above all he is a good citizen, who cheerfully and firmly supports the laws and willingly contributes to public measures designed to develop and improve his community.



P. HOFFMAN, one of the leading farmers of Liberty township, who owns the old Hoffman homestead farm of more than 40 acres in the outskirts of Ohio City, and is also interested in oil production, was born here in 1805, and is a son of the late Christopher Hoffman.

Mr. Hoffman's early life was spent on the home farm, but after completing his education

he worked for three years on a railroad, and then, in association with his brother, Benjamin F. Hoffman, the present mayor of Ohio City, entered into a grocery business at Ohio City. The firm of Hoffman Brothers continued for seven years, doing a large trade in staple and fancy groceries. After the sale of the grocery, A. P. Hoffman went into the hardware line with a Mr. Hill, under the firm name of Hoffman & Hill, which conducted the business for seven years. After selling his hardware interests, Mr. Hoffman removed to the old home farm where, on account of its nearness to the city, he can enjoy both rural and urban life. He is also financially interested in the Liberty Oil Company.

In 1888 A. P. Hoffman was married to Ella Harp, daughter of Alexander Harp, who formerly lived in Liberty township, but is now a resident of Gas City, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman have three children—Hazel, Maud and Dale. Both our subject and wife are members of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, of which he is a trustee.

Politically Mr. Hoffman is a Democrat. He has served as marshal of Ohio City, but is more interested in agriculture than in politics. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias and to the Odd Fellows, being a member of the Encampment of the latter fraternity.

JACOB SMITH, who resides on a well-developed farm located in section 28, Washington township, is one of the most progressive farmers of the locality. He is a son of Jacob Smith, a native of Germany, and was himself born in Prussia on May 27, 1839.

As an infant of one year Jacob Smith was

brought by his parents to America, the family locating on a farm at Grafton, Ohio. When he was nine years old they moved from Grafton to the vicinity of Elyria, Lorain County, and there remained for 20 years. There our subject was reared and educated. When the father died in 1856 he was the owner of 101 acres of farm land near Elyria.

In 1868 Jacob Smith was married to Christina Kalsch, widow of Christopher Kalsch, and daughter of Joseph Baldauf, who lived and died in Germany. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Smith moved to Washington township and settled on a farm of 30 acres, which, with 40 acres afterward added, constitutes their present homestead. The original land was mostly wilderness, in the clearing of which much hard work was expended.

Mrs. Jacob Smith came to this country with her mother and step-father, when but 10 years of age. By her first marriage she had three children—Catherine, wife of Joseph Schaefer, of Cleveland, Ohio; Elizabeth, who married Michael Kalozi, also of that city; and Frances, unmarried. To Mr. and Mrs. Smith were born two children—Barbara and Joseph. They are all members of St. John's Catholic Church, of Delphos, and Miss Barbara Smith is a member of the Young Ladies' Sodality.

F. WILLIAM STAMM, one of the leading citizens of Van Wert and a member of the Stamm Clothing Company of this city, was born in 1869 in the village of Convoy, this county. He is a son of David and Katherine (Schumm) Stamm, the former of whom is a native of Holmes County and the latter of Van Wert County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. David Stamm moved West in 1883, and are now residing in

Pittsburg, Kansas. Our subject was the oldest of 12 children, eight of whom are living.

When he was 12 years of age J. F. William Stamm accompanied his parents to Bates County, Missouri, but two years later started out for himself, in October of 1885 returning to Van Wert and clerking for his uncle, W. G. Stamm. He remained thus employed until July, 1887, when his uncle opened a store in Lincoln, Nebraska, and our subject retained his position with him there for another two years. Returning to Van Wert in September, 1889, he became a clerk for L. J. Germann & Company and later, until January, 1903, was connected with Henry Davis. In the following September the store of the Stamm Clothing Company was opened to the public, Mr. Stamm being one of four proprietors and having the entire management of the business. He has had a splendid business training, while few men are better qualified to appreciate the needs of their patrons and to supply them with that promptness and tact which mark the perfect salesman. The stock carried by the company is one of the best to be found in this part of Ohio and their establishment enjoys a very liberal trade.

In 1897 J. F. William Stamm was married to Alice Swartout, a native of Van Wert, born in 1878, and a daughter of O. D. Swartout. They have had two children—John M., who died in infancy, and Frederick O. The family are members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, in which they are untiring workers. Mr. Stamm himself is a member of the Home Guards of America and the Trewnav Club and is also a prominent Mason, being identified with Van Wert Lodge, No. 218, F. & A. M.; Van Wert Chapter, No. 71, R. A. M.; Van Wert Council, R. & S. M.; and Ivanhoe Commandery, No. 54, K. T.



M. CLOUSE is an extensive land-owner and a representative farmer of Liberty township. He has 366 acres of land, divided into several farms, the resident property of 157½ acres being situated in section 20. Mr. Clouse was born in Liberty township on March 18, 1843, and was the fourth child of George and Elizabeth (Kessler) Clouse, who were among the very earliest settlers of Van Wert County.

W. M. Clouse has always lived in his native township, with the exception of the time he spent in the army during the Civil War. Here he was reared and educated. At the beginning of the war, our subject enlisted in Company A, 99th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., under Capt. W. C. Scott and later served under Capt. W. T. Exline. He served from August, 1862, until July, 1865, and in the charge at Look-out Mountain was severely wounded, causing him to be in the hospital or several weeks. On two other occasions he was confined to the hospital; once in Louisville, Kentucky, from the fall of 1862 until the following March, and also in Washington, D. C., for three months. With these three exceptions he was with the regiment continuously.

On June 17, 1866, Mr. Clouse was married to Emaline Boyer in Willshire township, and had three children by this marriage: Emma May; George Monroe, who married Clara Anspach and has three children; and Orpha Annis, who married Bert Wright, lives in Harrod, Ohio, and has three children. Mrs. Clouse died in 1873. Mr. Clouse was married (second) to Minerva Watt, in 1873; they had two children: Charles Lucine, a farmer of Liberty township, who married Bertha Stover and has three children; and Nellie Victoria, who married Owen Boyer. Mrs. Clouse died in 1879, and Mr. Clouse was again mar-

ried, in 1881, to Frederica Riddle, and has four children by this marriage: David Waldo; William Elsworth; Lusta Lee; and Ernest Virgil.

Mr. Clouse has erected a fine large frame house and barn on his residence property. Another house and barn on the farm are occupied by a renter. Mr. Clouse has a farm of 80 acres in section 29, Liberty township, on which he first settled. In 1903 he purchased 80 acres in York township in section 30, which is also rented, and has good substantial buildings. In 1904 he bought the old Lindemoot farm of 46½ acres, which has upon it one of the finest frame houses in Liberty township, as well as a fine barn. There are 12 producing oil-wells on this land.

Mr. Clouse has never been actively interested in politics, but has served one term as township trustee. He is a member of the Church of God, and was for five years deacon; he has also served as trustee of this church. He is a member of the Patrons of Husbandry.

DANIEL A. BAER, a prominent farmer of Hoaglin township residing on his homestead in section 23, was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, in the township in which he now resides, on July 22, 1863. He is a son of Daniel and Margaret E. (Peters) Baer, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, the former being of German extraction. Our subject's parents were married in the State of Pennsylvania, later removing to Richland County, Ohio, and in 1859 coming to Van Wert County and making a home in Hoaglin township. Here the father died October 11, 1894. He is survived by his widow, now a lady of 81 years, who resides in Scott, and four children, viz: John D., of

Union township; William H., of Middlepoint; Samuel G., of Washington township; and Daniel A., the subject of this sketch.

Daniel A. Baer attended the public schools, after which he engaged in agricultural pursuits. In 1893 he purchased the 80 acres which comprise his present farm. He has converted the property into one of the most productive and desirable homesteads of the township. On January 2, 1892, Mr. Baer was married to Mary Myers, who was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, August 12, 1865, and is a daughter of Thomas and Lydia (Sherburn) Myers, both of Fairfield County. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Baer: Ruby A., February 24, 1893; Edith E., November 19, 1894; Ray L., October 17, 1896; Glenn, December 28, 1898; and Gale W., April 30, 1905. Mr. Baer is a Republican in politics, and both he and his wife are devout members of Pleasant View Methodist Episcopal Church in Hoaglin township.

MRS. CATHERINE MILLER, widow of Abraham Miller, who died in 1888 at the age of 46 years, is the owner of a valuable farm of 80 acres situated in section 27, Liberty township. She was born in Shanesville (now called Rockford), Mercer County, Ohio, and is a daughter of George Conrad and Catherine (Deal) Koepple.

George C. Koepple was a native of Germany and came to America with his parents. Mr. and Mrs. John Koepple, who settled in Mercer County and were among the early pioneers of that county. Mr. Koepple owned 95 acres of land in Mercer County, where he was engaged in farming, and was the father of 12 children, 10 of whom are still living.

Catherine Koepple was reared in Mercer

County, and in 1866 was married to Abraham Miller, a son of Henry and Elizabeth Miller, of Mercer County, and a brother of George Miller, of Liberty township. For one year after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Miller lived in Mercer County and in 1867 moved to Liberty township, Van Wert County, locating on the farm which is now occupied by the widow, and which is a very valuable property, as oil has been developed upon it. There are at present ten producing oil-wells on the farm. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Miller, namely: Ora, the oldest, who resides at home; George Perry, who married Bertha Stuck and has three children—Mary Catherine, William Kenneth and Beatrice Leola; Henry Conrad, who died when five weeks old; and Oliver Chester, who lives at home. Mrs. Miller and sons continue to operate the home farm and in 1894 erected a large barn on the place. The family all attend the United Brethren Church.

JOHAN D. LARE, an influential farmer of Tully township, was born January 31, 1853, on the old home farm, which is situated in section 28. He is a son of John Lare, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. He has always resided in Tully township and been engaged in agricultural pursuits. For a year after his marriage he farmed the home place, clearing all but the 15 acres of the farm which did not require it. At first he lived in a cabin on the place, in section 28, but in 1889 erected a fine modern home, and four years later built the substantial barn.

John D. Lare was married December 27, 1877, to Mary Tracy, who was born in Allen County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Elijah and

Sarah (Reed) Tracy, who came to this county nearly 40 years ago and now live in Convoy, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Lare have had four children: Ira, a resident of Monroeville, Indiana, who married Inez Clem and has one son, John Lauren, and a daughter, as yet not named; Jay, who married Bessie Webb; Iris, wife of James Sponseller of Tully township, and the mother of one son; and Ray, who lives at home. Both Mr. Lare and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mr. Lare is a Republican in national politics, but locally is independent. As he is a citizen who has the welfare of the community at heart, it was through his efforts despite strong opposition, that pike roads were built throughout Tully township. He has also an interest in the Convoy Telephone Company, and for six years has been a director of the Farmers' Mutual Aid Association of Van Wert County.

GEORGE SHAFER, one of the prosperous farmers and representative citizens of Dublin township, Mercer County, Ohio, has all his life resided on his present farm of 210 acres—60 of which are situated in section 34, Liberty township, Van Wert County, and the remaining 150 acres in Mercer County. He was born in Liberty township, Van Wert County, February 26, 1843, and is the oldest son of George and Margaret (Snyder) Shafer. Mr. Shafer's father was a native of Germany, came to America when a young man and first settled in Columbus, Ohio, where he lived for four years. He then moved to LaFayette, Madison County, remaining there for about two years, and in 1840 removed to Van Wert County, where he entered 60 acres of timberland. He was the father of eight children

(the subject of this sketch being the only survivor), and died in 1877, his wife surviving him until 1887.

George Shafer was one of the first white children born in Van Wert County and has lived on the Van Wert and Mercer County line during his entire life. He has endured many of the trials and hardships incident to pioneer life, and remembers well the time when the woods around his father's place were thickly inhabited by such wild animals as wolves, bears and deer.

Mr. Shafer was married to Elizabeth Flager, a daughter of Adam Flager, who was also one of the pioneers of Van Wert County. They have had twelve children, as follows: George Adam, who married Belle Dull, a daughter of William Dull, and is the father of six children; William, who married Rebecca Baltzell and has six children: John, who married Elizabeth Denman, and has five children; Frank, who married Frances Hays, and is the father of two children; Clarence, married to Jesse Shingeldecker; Ora; Nellie (Mrs. Arthur Dillbone), the mother of four children: Otie, who married Edward High and has one child: Grace; Cecil; and Lewis, Urcel and Clark, the last three deceased.

JOSEPH LINDEMANN, who passed away June 30, 1898, will be well remembered as a prominent farmer of Washington township, having resided here for more than 20 years before his death. He was born in Germany about 1832, and was still young when he accompanied his parents, (Frederick and Clara (Branes) Lindemann), four brothers and a sister to the United States, where they became prominent and valued citizens. The children of the family were as

follows: Joseph; Frederick; Henry, who is the father of Hon. J. F. Lindemann, of Delphos; Frank, a leading farmer of Washington township; and Mrs. Anna Vonderembse, also a resident of Delphos. By a second marriage Frederick Lindemann had 13 children, and was altogether the father of 18 children, Joseph being the eldest of the family by his first wife.

Joseph Lindemann was for many years a resident of Cincinnati, where he was foreman in a dry goods store, later moving to Covington, Kentucky, and in 1877 retiring from commercial life to his farm of 80 acres in Washington township, Van Wert County, which had been purchased by him when a youth in his teens. Here he spent the remainder of his years and was accounted a gentleman of thrift and honor. He had been twice married—first to Catherine Ricke, who died leaving him a widower with three children; then to Mary Lanse, who passed away March 24, 1890, leaving five children. The children of the first union were: Joseph, Jr., who died in Delphos on May 19, 1903, for many years proprietor of the Eagle shoe store; Mrs. Anna Dulweber; and Frank, a traveling salesman, residing in Covington, Kentucky. The second family of children are: Mrs. George Reindel and Benjamin, both of Washington township; Edward, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Christina, (Mrs. Joseph Recker), who died June 28, 1905; and Alois, who died July 15, 1896, aged twenty years.

Anna Lindemann was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was there educated, being married April 14, 1880, to John Dulweber, a prosperous lumber merchant of that city. The ceremony was performed in Covington where Mr. Dulweber resided. Her husband subsequently purchased the lumber interest of Bungener & Company, of Cincinnati, and conducted the business until his death on December 12, 1897.

The deceased was recognized in the commercial world as a shrewd and successful business man. By his death Mrs. Dulweber was left with four sons, the eldest not yet 17; but she bravely bent her energies to the task of rearing them to lives of usefulness and honor, and has displayed a wisdom, both in their training and the management of her large business interests, which marks her as a woman of exceptional ability and sound judgment. Except the youngest son, Alfred, who is still a student in the Delphos public schools, the sons are well established in business and all promise to be a credit to the mother and themselves. Benjamin F. Dulweber married Nannie Noble, of Mount Healthy, Ohio, and resides in Cincinnati, where he owns and manages the lumber business formerly conducted by his father. Edward Dulweber married Mabel McGrievy, and has one child, a resident of Covington and in the employ of a Cincinnati lumber firm. John Dulweber, Jr., is in the employ of the Union Hardware Company, of Delphos. Although Mrs. Dulweber still owns the old home in Covington, she moved to Delphos in July, 1904, and the following year bought a residence here. She is a faithful member of St. John's Catholic Church, and universally respected for her fine qualities of head and heart.



SOLOMON B. FACKLER, one of the representative agriculturists of Union township, the owner of a fine farm of 100 acres in section 17, was born in Richland County, Ohio, July 12, 1847, and is a son of Henry H. and Nancy (Bear) Fackler.

The parents of Mr. Fackler remained in Richland County until 1869, when they removed to Bloom township, Wood County,

Ohio. Their children were: Jacob, who died young; Solomon B., of this sketch; Emanuel, who died aged 40 years; Martin, deceased; Mary Elizabeth, wife of John Ketzenbarger; Leah, who died at the age of 10 years; Sarah Ann, deceased, formerly wife of Adam Fry, also deceased; and Alice, wife of William Young, of Union township. The Fackler family comes of German ancestry and Revolutionary stock. Our subject's great-grandfather, Wendel Fackler, with his two brothers, George and Adam, emigrated to America, settled in Pennsylvania; all three served in the Patriot army, during the Revolutionary War, and all held official positions. The father of Solomon B. Fackler was born in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, June 23, 1823. In Richland County, Ohio, on September 7, 1843, he married Nancy Bear, who was born March 14, 1819, and died January 23, 1897. In 1889 Mr. Fackler came to Van Wert County and purchased a farm of 240 acres in section 21, Union township, where he still lives.

Solomon B. Fackler has been a resident of Union township for the past 17 years, although he came here as a visitor in the early '60's, remaining, at that time, until 1864. In 1889 he purchased his present farm, which was then only partially improved, and he has since placed it under excellent cultivation, engaging in a general line of farming. The family home is one of comfort, and all the improvements are of a substantial character.

In 1867 Solomon B. Fackler was married to Sarah C. Daup, who was born in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, September 14, 1846, and in 1856 accompanied her parents to Ohio. She is a daughter of William and Katherine (Artz) Daup, of Pennsylvania Dutch extraction; both of her parents died in Richland County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Fackler have




MRS. AGNES K. BOCKEY



MATHIAS BOCKEY

had six children, as follows: Loren D., of Michigan; Nancy Katherine (Fulton), deceased; Clarence, of Union township; Jennie A. (Mrs. Delbert Staley), of Union township; Henry, of Union township; and Elnora, who died young. Politically Mr. Fackler is identified with the Democratic party.


ATHIAS BOCKEY, one of the best and most prosperous agriculturists of this county, resides on a farm of 268 acres located in sections 15 and 16, Washington township. He is regarded as a reliable authority on all questions pertaining to the care and cultivation of land and crops. Mr. Bockey is a son of John and Margaret Bockey and was born June 4, 1841, in Seneca County, Ohio, where he was educated, grew to manhood and was married.

In 1864, Mathias Bockey moved to Allen County, Ohio, locating in Marion township, near Landeck, on a tract of timberland containing 120 acres. This land Mr. Bockey cleared and put under cultivation, converting it into a most desirable property, of which with the exception of 80 acres, he disposed in 1885. In that year he moved to Van Wert County, locating on his present farm which he has improved and developed into one of the most productive in the county.

In 1863 Mr. Bockey was married to Anna Koch, daughter of Adam Koch, a farmer of Seneca County, Ohio. After her demise, March 5, 1870, he was married to Agnes Koch, a sister of his first wife. The death of his second wife occurred September 20, 1905. Mr. Bockey is the father of 10 children, four of whom are by the first marriage, viz.: Catherine, who is unmarried and resides at home; Mary Agnes, who died in infancy; Mary (Mrs. Dennis

Clark, of Decatur, Indiana; and Anna, who lives at home. The six children born to his second marriage are: Ralph, who resides at home; Lucy, who married Bert Carpenter and died October 8, 1897; Emma, who died September 21, 1874, aged six months; George Amos, who died January 21, 1876, also six months of age; Edward, who lives at home; and Arthur, who was married to Anna Dalk on January 2, 1906.

Mr. Bockey has reared his family in the Catholic faith and has the satisfaction of seeing them grow up a credit to his example, and devout members of the Church of St. John the Evangelist at Delphos, of which he himself has been almost a life-long member and of which he was at one time a councilman. He is prominently identified with the Sacred Heart Society, and a man whose sterling worth and uprightness place him among the most esteemed and respected citizens of Van Wert County. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Bockey accompany this sketch.

RANK B. HALL, chief clerk of the Pennsylvania Company at Van Wert, was born April 15, 1854, in Crestline, Crawford County, Ohio, and is a son of Alexander and Sarah Elizabeth (Gardner) Hall. The father, a native of Lisbon, Columbia County, Ohio, is still a resident of Crestline, where the mother died at the age of 54 years. Mrs. Alexander Hall was born in Mercer County, Ohio, and at her death left a family consisting of the following six children: Mary Alice, now the wife of W. H. Raymond, of Galion, Ohio; Lawrence, who was killed on the railroad; Frank B.; Rosa, widow of J. M. Raifsnnyder, of Crestline; Charles A., who re-

sides in New York City; and Ellsworth, who died in infancy.

In 1871 Frank B. Hall took his first position with the Pennsylvania Company, as clerk in the yard dispatcher's office at Alliance, Ohio, and he has been with this company ever since. His first promotion was to the position of clerk of the freight office at Mansfield; then he was transferred to Crestline, where he filled the same position, and thence, in 1887, came to Van Wert as chief clerk of the company here. This road handles all the business of the Adams Express Company at Van Wert, and the travel for the State of Pennsylvania. In addition to being thus prominently connected with these important interests, Mr. Hall assists with the correspondence of the freight office, his close and intelligent attention to business making him a valued official.

In 1878 Frank B. Hall was married to Emma L. Hassinger, a daughter of Jonas T. Hassinger, deceased, who resided near Leesville Cross Roads, Crawford County, Ohio. Mrs. Hall is a graduate of the Crestline High School, and for several terms before her marriage was a teacher in that city. Mr. and Mrs. Hall are the parents of two children:—Harry, who died in infancy, and Alman E. In 1893 Mr. Hall erected the family residence at No. 639 North Washington street. He is a member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, of Van Wert, and is always prepared to labor for the spiritual, moral or intellectual advancement of the city. He is a member of its Board of Education and has charge of the construction of the Second Ward School Building, having also been a member of the committee which had in charge the erection of the Fourth Ward School Building. He is a Republican in politics and is a member of the Royal Arcanum and the treasurer of the local council of that order.

LORENZO D. THARP is one of the prosperous, progressive farmers of this county, and has lived on his farm of 40 acres in section 17, Hoaglin township, for over 30 years. He is a son of James and Sarah (Hamilton) Tharp, and was born in Licking County, Ohio, December 9, 1846. His father was a native of Licking County and his mother, of Muskingum County. The former died when our subject was a small lad and for her second husband, his mother married Thomas George.

Lorenzo D. Tharp remained with his mother and stepfather until his marriage, attending the district school and acquiring an education such as most farmer boys of that day received. On March 12, 1872, Mr. Tharp was married to Rachel A. Harter, who was born in Licking County, March 6, 1850, and is a daughter of William and Mary G. (Wheeler) Harter. Her father is a native of Virginia, and her mother, of Licking County. Of the 11 children born to Mr. and Mrs. Tharp the following survive: Lillie R. (Mrs. John W. Hennis), and Anna M. (Mrs. Frank Brown), both of Hoaglin township; and Roy C. and Ruby E., living at home. The year after his marriage, with his wife and one child, Mr. Tharp moved to Franklin County, Ohio, where they resided until about 1875, when they came to Van Wert County. In the following year he located on his present farm upon which he had already constructed a log cabin, the rude dwelling giving place 12 years later to his present residence. At that early day wild game was still abundant and furnished many an appetizing meal for the pioneer's table.

Mr. Tharp is a man who takes an active interest in the current topics of the day and is well posted on all important issues. He is a Democrat in politics and served many years as school director of sub-district No. 6, most

the time as clerk of the board. He is a man of honor and integrity, and his high standing in the entire community has been attained by many years of faithful, useful work.

AUSTIN T. JOHNSON, one of the most prominent men of Liberty township, owner and operator of 202 acres of valuable farm land, 162 acres situated in section 12, and 40 acres in section 14, was born in Richland County, Ohio, on January 4, 1842, and is a son of Richard M. and Rebecca (Walkup) Johnson. The father, a native of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, became a farmer of Richland County, Ohio, and in 1836 moved to Hardin County, Ohio. Originally the owner there of 40 acres of land, he increased the home farm, from time to time, successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits, and at the time of his death was a very prominent man.

Austin Johnson was less than a year old when his parents settled in Hardin County, where he was reared and educated. On July 10, 1861, soon after the outbreak of the Civil War, he entered Company D, 34th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served through the entire conflict. In 1863 he veteranized, being severely wounded at the battle of Winchester, after which he was in the hospital for three months. Regaining his health, he returned to his company, but the entire command was captured at Beverly, West Virginia, and Mr. Johnson was then confined in Libby Prison for about two months. On February 28, 1865, his regiment was consolidated with the 36th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., and with this regiment he was mustered out on July 27, 1865. After the close of the war he located in Van Wert County, having in 1863 bought a farm of 60 acres.

Austin Johnson was married August 16, 1865, to Rosanna M. Unger and they had two children. Of these, John Richard died when past six years of age. William B. Johnson, the surviving son, married Mary Magdalene Parker and lives on his farm of 80 acres. He has one daughter, Mary Lenore. Fraternally Mr. Johnson is a member of the I. O. O. F.

JOHAN W. MYERS, of the firm of McConahay & Myers, jewelers, of Van Wert, was born April 15, 1846, in Greenup, Greenup County, Kentucky, and is a son of John A. and Isabella (White) Myers. His parents were born in Pennsylvania, where they were reared and married, soon after which they moved to Kentucky, where they passed the remainder of their lives. The father was a miller by occupation and worked at that trade during the greater part of his life. John A. Myers was twice married, having four children (of whom our subject is the youngest), by his first marriage and one by his second.

John W. Myers attended school in Kentucky until he was 19 years of age, and the following year started out for himself. Coming to Van Wert, he entered the employ of A. P. McConahay, under whom he learned the trade of a jeweler, becoming an expert in every detail of the business. He was with Mr. McConahay almost 40 years, when, with Clarence R. McConahay, a son of his employer, he purchased the stock of the establishment and succeeded to the business, under the firm name of McConahay & Myers. The store has been located in the same building on East Main street, for more than 22 years, and is one of the substantial, reliable institutions of the city. The store is 22 by 80 feet in dimensions, is well

stocked with a splendid assortment of jewelry, silverware and musical supplies. An extensive business is transacted.

Mr. Meyers has been twice married; first, to Gertrude Scott, of Mansfield, Ohio, by whom he has one son, Thomas Gaylord, chief clerk of the Pennsylvania freight depot in Van Wert. The second union was with Mrs. Jane Hattery, who had been left a widow with three children. She is a native of Van Wert and a daughter of James Murphy, one of the pioneers of Hoaglin township. Mr. Myers owns their pleasant home at No. 120 South avenue, and the family occupy an important place in the religious and social circles of Van Wert. He possesses a baritone voice of exceptional quality and sweetness, and for more than 20 years he sang in the choir of the First Presbyterian Church, of which church he is a valued member. He is a prominent Mason, having been knighted a Templar, has passed through all the chairs in the Blue Lodge and Chapter, and is the present treasurer of the Commandery. In politics Mr. Myers is a Republican.

FREDERICK MINZING, proprietor of a brickyard at South Delphos, is a native of Sandusky, Ohio, where he was born December 17, 1857, a son of Jacob F. and Catherine (Scheuer) Minzing. Both parents were born in Germany and came to the United States in 1848, settling in Sandusky, Ohio. In 1863 they returned to the Fatherland on a visit of one year, after which they located in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where Frederick attended school and acquired his education. On July 18, 1876, his parents purchased a farm of 40 acres in Washington township, about three miles west of Delphos, which was the family residence when the father died March 5, 1889.

When Frederick Minzing was about 23 years of age, he came to Delphos and began working in the brickyard of Ahlemeier & Fetter. Three years later he purchased the interest of Mr. Fetter and two years thereafter that of Mr. Ahlemeier, acquiring the entire business in 1886. The yard employs about 12 men, is operated during the entire season, and occupies five acres of land just outside the limits of Delphos. In addition to this tract, Mr. Minzing owns about 35 acres, which is devoted to farming purposes and lies immediately outside the city.

Frederick Minzing was married February 21, 1884, to Bertha Ahlemeier, daughter of Joseph Ahlemeier, of Delphos, their three children being: Fred, who was born December 2, 1884; Lizzette, June 14, 1888; and Martha, March 19, 1904. Mr. Minzing and his family are devout members of St. John's Catholic Church and he himself is connected with the Catholic Knights of America.

PHILIP JOHN RADER, one of the enterprising and successful farmers of Liberty township, residing on a farm of 200 acres situated in sections 3 and 4, was born on the farm which he now owns in an old log house which is still standing, and is a son of John Adam and Catherine (Good) Rader.

John Adam Rader was born in Germany and came to America when 28 years of age, landing in New York City on the 4th of July, 1848, and, after working in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, in 1850 moved to Van Wert County. After working here for a few years, he bought 80 acres of land just west of Van Wert, where he engaged in farming until 1863, when he sold the property and bought 100 acres, which is the farm now owned and oc-

cupied by Philip John Rader. The land, which was mostly in timber, was cleared by himself and sons, and many other needed improvements were made. The family lived in a log cabin until 1870, when the house was built, which is still on the farm.

John Adam Rader was the father of the following five children, four of whom are still living: George, who lives in Van Wert; Joseph, who died in infancy; Kate, who resides at home and is the owner of a farm of 80 acres, which was formerly in the possession of the Brodnix family; Philip John, the subject of this sketch; and Jacob A., who lives on a farm of 160 acres in Liberty township. Mr. Rader died March 3, 1904, his wife having preceded him, April 16, 1900. At the time of his death he left 480 acres to his children, having accumulated that estate during his residence in Van Wert County.

Philip John Rader was reared on his father's farm and educated in the district schools of Liberty township. He has always lived on the old home farm, been engaged in farming, and has never married; but his sister Kate, who is also single, lives at home and superintends the household affairs. Mr. Rader is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Ohio City.

LLEWELLYN A. SEVERNS, who resides in a comfortable home in the outskirts of Van Wert, is a well-known citizen of Pleasant township, and owns a well-improved farm of 80 acres, situated in Hoaglin township, in section 15. Mr. Severns was born in Knox County, Ohio, May 5, 1848, and is a son of Simon and Catherine (Shaffer) Severns. The father of Mr. Severns was born in Ohio, and the mother, in Maryland. They were early settlers in Perry

township, Allen County, where the father served many years as a justice of the peace. In this capacity he was known far and wide, and was held in very high esteem.

Llewellyn A. Severns attended the neighborhood schools during his earlier years; assisted on the farm, and then became his father's right-hand man, the latter being much engrossed in public matters pertaining to his office. In the spring of 1871 he came to Hoaglin township, cleared a farm he had formerly purchased, and was married in 1875. In 1876 he removed to Union County, Iowa, where for several years he engaged in agricultural pursuits, and was also concerned in the buying and shipping of grain. In 1881 Mr. Severns and family returned to Hoaglin township, and shortly afterward became superintendent of the famous George H. Marsh farm, which is located near Van Wert, he being the first manager Mr. Marsh ever employed. After closing out his business with that gentleman, he continued to farm in Hoaglin township until the fall of 1905, when he removed to his present home of 10 acres situated in the outskirts of Van Wert, in Pleasant township. As mentioned above, he still retains his 80-acre farm in Hoaglin township.

On February 24, 1875, in Van Wert County, Mr. Severns was united in marriage to Clara Jobes, who was born in Wayne County, Ohio, February 18, 1858, and is a daughter of Samuel and Elmira (Anderson) Jobes. Both of Mrs. Severns' parents were born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and were very early settlers in Wayne County. To Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Severns were born these children: Katie C., wife of Grant Shaw, of Paulding County, Ohio; Ivy L., of Van Wert County; Maud F., wife of L. A. Cummings, of Hoaglin township; Nellie V., wife of Harvey C. Smith, of Jackson township, and Sylvanus

B., of Hoaglin township. In the various localities in which Mr. Severns has resided, he has always been considered a man of upright character and a representative of the best citizenship.

PETER TEMPLE, owner and operator of a farm of 97 acres, of which 73 acres (the residence property) are situated in section 33, Liberty township, Van Wert County, and the remaining 24 acres in section 5, Dublin township, Mercer County, was born in Liberty township, Van Wert County, November 20, 1855, and is a son of Seth F. and Lucinda (Dull) Temple. His father was a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Van Wert County in 1845, and engaged in farming.

At an early age Peter Temple was left an orphan and after the death of his parents went to live with his grandmother, Mrs. John Temple, remaining with her for about two years. When seven years old he made his home with his grandfather, Peter Dull, who resided in Dublin township, and with whom he lived until he was 15 years of age. He then worked for Peter Brubaker for a time, attending school during the winter months. He was married in Willshire township to Mary Elizabeth Krick, a daughter of William Krick, and they have had three children: Charles, who married Sophia Snyder, lives in Liberty township and has two children—Helen Lucinda and Carl; William Clark, who married Nettie Frey and lives in Syracuse, Indiana; and Peter Calvin, who lives at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Temple moved to a farm of 40 acres in section 33, Liberty township, and resided there until 1896, when he traded the 40 acres for his present farm, paying the difference in cash. Since taking pos-

session of his present homestead, he has made various changes and improvements, though the large brick house and the barn were on the farm when he purchased it. There are four producing oil-wells on the farm, which are leased to William H. Ayers.

BL. VORE, the leading undertaker of Van Wert, was born in 1861, in Miami County, Ohio, and is a son of Allen and Caroline (Sinks) Vore.

Both parents were natives of Miami County, but soon after the birth of our subject moved to a farm near the Stillwater River, a beautiful spot among the hills of Montgomery County, Ohio, where the father is still living in his 77th year. The mother passed away July 13, 1904, at the age of 67 years. The family consisted of three sons: George B., an undertaker of St. Marys; B. L., our subject; and D. W., a farmer residing about nine miles north of Dayton.

B. L. Vore first engaged in business in Mendon, Ohio, in partnership with his brother, George B. They conducted a furniture and undertaking business there for four years, when our subject sold out and removed to Kansas. He intended to preempt a tract of land in that State, but a short residence there was sufficient to satisfy him that Ohio was a pretty good place in which to live; he therefore returned to the East, and on February 17, 1888, embarked in business at Van Wert. His original undertaking establishment was contained in an unpretentious little building located on East Main street, where the Home Guards Temple building now stands and where he continued until about 14 years ago, when, having outgrown the limited quarters of the earlier years, he purchased his present parlors at No.



RESIDENCE AND FARM BUILDINGS OF MATTHEW HENRY BROWN

212 East Main street, known as the Hammond Block. This building is 22 by 132 feet, two stories in height; the upper floor is used as a dwelling, leaving the lower floor for the offices and casket show room. He has the latest and most approved hearses, and the first call-buggy and ambulance used in the city. He is the favorite undertaker of this section and receives fully 90 per cent. of the business of Van Wert, averaging about 130 funerals per annum. He considers this one of the best locations in the State.

Mr. Vore was married December 10, 1891, to Emma J. Haven, daughter of Jacob Haven, of Van Wert, and they have two children: Nellie C. and Kathryn A. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. Vore has membership in the I. O. O. F., Knights of Pythias, K. O. T. M., I. O. R. M., Home Guards of America, and Hay-makers.



MATTHEW HENRY BROWN, one of the large farmers and substantial citizens of Union township, who owns an estate of 100 acres situated in section 18, was born near South Bloomingville, Hocking County, Ohio, May 1, 1853, and is a son of Adam and Nancy Agnes (Johnston) Brown.

The Brown family is of Irish descent, and the Johnstons of Scotch. Adam Brown, the father of Matthew H., was born in Hampshire County, Virginia, but the greater part of his married life was spent in Hocking County, Ohio, where his wife died, his own death occurring in Columbus. The 12 children of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Brown were: Sarah (Mitchell), of Madison County; Hiram S., of Hocking County; Margaret (Poland), of Columbus; Tabitha, who died at the age of three years;

Mary Ann, who was born in 1841, and died August 25, 1892; Lydia (Williams) and Harriet (Hutchison), both of Columbus; Thomas P., of Vinton County; Isaac, of Columbus; Matthew Henry; Andrew, deceased; and Jane (Rochte), of Fulton County.

Matthew H. Brown remained on the home farm with his parents until he reached his majority, working as a lumberman during the winter seasons in Athens, Hocking and Vinton counties. Later he entered the business himself, buying, cutting and shipping lumber, his main depot being Columbus. For about seven years he was in partnership with his brothers, Hiram S. and Thomas P. Brown. He then went to Lyons County, Kansas, where he was engaged in the carpenter and stone-mason lines, having a practical knowledge of many trades, as well as a natural skill in actual workmanship. After spending a few months in Kansas, he was taken down with typhoid fever, which necessitated his return to Hocking County, where he was married. He then removed to Wood County and worked for one summer as a carpenter, after which he returned to Hocking County, where he assisted in the building of 22 houses and, working with a partner, cut 375,000 feet of logs.

In June, 1887, Mr. Brown came to Van Wert County and bought 100 acres of woodland in sections 17 and 18, Union township, paying \$1,450 for 80 acres as a first purchase, the additional 20 acres costing him \$800. He has recently been offered \$110 per acre for the entire farm of 100 acres, all of which he has cleared with the exception of 15 acres. The land is all under a high state of cultivation and is very productive, and the improvements he has made in the way of erecting substantial buildings, have made the property of great value. Views of Mr. Brown's residence and farm building accompany this sketch. Mr.

Brown has always been a good business man, and has not only made money for himself, but has assisted those in business with him. He helped his father pay off a debt of \$1,500, and he has always been ready to assist in necessary public improvements—in the way of making goods roads and providing school facilities. Finally, he is a man of excellent standing and commands general respect among his neighbors, his fellow-citizens and in the more general community.

On March 17, 1886, Mr. Brown was married to Ella Nichols, who was born in Athens County, Ohio, August 26, 1867, and is a daughter of Andrew and Amanda (Bagley) Nichols. The former is a native of Morgan County and the latter of Muskingum County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have these children, who form a happy, domestic home circle: Agnes, Floyd, Orlana, May, Jessie, Walter, Clinton, Arthur and Oscar. Another child died as an infant. Politically Mr. Brown is identified with the Republican party, and formerly was connected with the local grange.

ALBERT LONGWELL, the well-known proprietor of the "Sulphur Springs Farm", in section 30, Jackson township, is one of the representative citizens of this locality. He was born in the township named on December 13, 1853, and is a son of George and Mary (Sheets) Longwell.

George Longwell was born in Delaware County, Ohio, and in 1851 removed thence to Jackson township, Van Wert County, settling, through a mistake, on land adjoining the property for which he had already paid. After residing there for two or three years, his mistake was discovered by a survey of the land, and he then located on what is now our sub-

ject's farm of 160 acres, now finely improved and valuable. Then it was a wilderness, even the pioneer's axe not yet having sounded through the forests, which still sheltered deer and other animals. Right in the woods he built his log cabin and with manly courage began the clearing of the land around it. Hardships of a most trying character were finally overcome, and, as years passed, Mr. Longwell was able to enjoy the fruits of his hard and faithful work. He was a man of prominence in his section and the first township election was held in his cabin, the mother of our subject generously preparing an old-time, abundant election dinner. George Longwell died in July, 1872. He had served in numerous township offices and had been recognized as an honored and valued citizen. Politically he was identified with the Republican party.


Those of the children of Mr. and Mrs. George Longwell who still survive are: Betsey A., wife of Frederick Markley, of Jackson township; Henry, also of that township; Catherine, wife of John Lewis, of Middlepoint; Martha J., wife of W. T. Sterling, of Jackson township; Albert, the subject of this sketch; Lucy A., wife of Samuel Weldy, of Jackson township; and Charles, of the same township, of whom a sketch appears in this volume. The children deceased are Henrietta, Lucretia, Mary E. and three children who died in infancy. Mr. Longwell was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as was his widow, who survived him until April 2, 1901.

Albert Longwell was reared in Jackson township to an agricultural life. His educational advantages were those presented in the little log structures of that day, where, at least, the children were thoroughly drilled in the elementary branches.

On April 28, 1892, Mr. Longwell was married to Etta Shockey, who was born in Allen

County, Ohio, October 15, 1860, and is a daughter of Abraham and Mary R. (Counsellor) Shockey. The father of Mrs. Longwell was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war and died from fever while in the service, now resting with his fellow heroes at Knoxville, Tennessee. Her mother died when she was an infant and she was reared by her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Counsellor, early settlers of Auglaize County.

Mr. and Mrs. Longwell are members of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church of Jackson township, he being one of the trustees, a class leader and a steward. It is said, on good authority, that Mr. Longwell has the distinction of being the first white child born in Jackson township.

ETH S. BRIGGS, who resides in a comfortable home three miles southwest of Convoy, is now living in retirement after many years of productive activity. He is a native of Clark County, Ohio, where he was born March 24, 1836, and is a son of Jacob and Lodemia (Hale) Briggs. John Briggs, his grandfather, was born in England, while his wife was a German woman.

Jacob Briggs moved from Clark County, Ohio, to Warren County, Indiana, and thence to Vermilion County, Illinois, where he died in 1894, aged 80 years and two days. His marriage with Lodemia Hale resulted in the birth of 13 children, four of whom are now living, namely: Seth S., subject of this sketch; Violetta (Hushour), of Illinois; Samantha Jane (Richards), also a resident of that State, and William, who lives in Colorado.

Seth S. Briggs was reared to maturity in Clark County, Ohio, and in 1857 moved to Warren County, Indiana, following his father


who had located there three years previously. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company F., 72nd Reg., Indiana Vol. Inf., and served in the Army of the Cumberland under General Thomas. The regiment was more immediately under Gen. John T. Wilder, whose command had a wonderful record and was known as the "Lightning Brigade." General Wilder was a man of wonderful foresight and an intense patriot. He secured permission to mount his brigade (which thereby became mounted infantry) and all its marches were made by horse; but the troops dismounted when going into action, and, although always at the front and in the thick of battle, they never were repulsed. Permission was sought by General Wilder, to use 8-shot Spencer rifles, but the request did not meet with approval at headquarters, and as a consequence the government did not purchase them. General Wilder, however, mortgaged his home and personally secured the money to thus equip his men.

Mr. Briggs was in all the engagements of the "Lightning Brigade," including Hoover's Gap, Stone River, Chickamauga, siege of Atlanta (which lasted a month), and Selma, Alabama, the last being the hardest fought battle in his service. He was at Nashville when General Thomas routed Hood's army, and was at Macon, Georgia, when his command was honorably discharged. The regiment has had frequent reunions, the one at Chickamauga, in 1898, being signalized by the erection of the monument on the bloody battle-field in memory of the lives there sacrificed by the brave comrades of Wilder's brigade.

At the close of the Civil war, Mr. Briggs returned to his Indiana home, and eight years later moved to Vermilion County, Illinois, where he followed farming for 25 years. In the fall of 1899 he came to Van Wert County, and purchased his present farm of 160 acres.

half of which is in section 12, Harrison township, and the remainder in Pleasant township. His son Charles, now a resident of Convoy, owns a farm adjoining his father's, consisting of 100 acres in Harrison township.

On March 16, 1854, Seth S. Briggs was married to Mary H. Buffenbarger at South Charleston, Ohio. Mrs. Briggs was born near Springfield, Clark County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Washington and Mary Buffenbarger, who were pioneers of that county. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Briggs—Albert, who died at the age of 13; and Charles, who is in the furniture business at Convoy. Politically, Mr. Briggs is a Republican. His fraternal membership is confined to W. B. Flemming Post, G. A. R., at West Lebanon, Indiana.

OHN WILLIAM EAST was born March 13, 1863, in German township, Allen County, Ohio, and was about one month old when his parents came to Van Wert County and settled on a tract of land in section 21, Washington township, where he now resides. The family was founded in America by a Hessian who fought in the Revolutionary War, and afterward established himself in Pennsylvania, his descendants being widely scattered over the Union and many of them residing in Allen and Van Wert counties. The immediate progenitors of our subject were Abraham and Jane (McMillen) East, the former a native of Pennsylvania. He came to Ohio and was married in Allen County to Jane McMillen, daughter of James W. McMillen, who was also a native of Pennsylvania, but who became a prominent farmer of Allen County and later moved to Van Wert County.

Mr. McMillen died at the advanced age of 84 years, while visiting his daughter, Mrs. Martha Muman, in Allen County. When Abraham East came to Van Wert County, he purchased 120 acres of land, but he added to this acreage until, at his death seven years later in September, 1870, he owned 242 acres. Mrs. East died in May, 1898. Their family consisted of the following children: Mary Elmira (Mrs. John Grant), of Butler County, now deceased; Martha Matilda (Mrs. Jephtha Morris), of Jackson township; Rhuama Jane (Mrs. A. Freeman), of Leipsic, Putnam County; Jeremiah, a widower of Washington township, whose wife was Elizabeth Snodgrass; Isaiah, who married Elizabeth Miller and lives in Allen County; Florence M., who died at the age of 27 years; Catherine K., who died when 13 years old; John William; and Ada May (Mrs. Fred Rice), of Washington township.

John William East resides on the East homestead of 140 acres, located in sections 16 and 21, about midway between Delphos and Middlepoint. He is one of the substantial agriculturists who help to form the frame work of American prosperity and are always ready to help along a good cause. He was married on June 26, 1895, to Winona A. Boyd, a lady of pleasing personality who was born in Auglaize County, Ohio. Her parents are Rev. D. A. and Florence (Mahan) Boyd, the former a native of Union County; they now reside in Bryan, Ohio, but were stationed at Middlepoint where Mr. Boyd was pastor of the United Brethren Church at the time of Mrs. East's marriage. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. East are: Ralph H., born March 25, 1898; and Loren W., born August 27, 1901. Mr. East is now serving his second year as director of the School Board of Washington township.

FRANK CUSTER, a highly esteemed young agriculturist of Liberty township, and owner of a valuable farm of 150 acres, situated in sections 33 and 34, was born in Liberty township on August 19, 1869, and is a son of Milton and Sarah J. (Hoghe) Custer.

Milton Custer was a native of Mercer County, born July 3, 1847, and his wife was born in Van Wert County, October 28, 1847. Peter Custer, the father of Milton Custer and grandfather of Frank Custer, was a native of Pennsylvania and later moved to Mercer County, where he lived for many years. He then located in this county, where he resided until the time of his death. Mr. Custer and Mr. Hoghe, grandparents of Frank Custer, were among the earliest and most prominent pioneers of Van Wert County, and lived to see it develop from a wilderness, occupied by Indians and wild animals, into a state of high cultivation. Milton Custer died December 27, 1887; his wife is still living.

Frank Custer was reared and educated in Liberty township, where he is now one of its most prominent farmers. He was married August 19, 1891, to Fanny M. Dull, a daughter of James Monroe Dull, a sketch of whom will be found in this work. They have had seven children, the two oldest of whom died in infancy—Glen, at the age of 2 months and 19 days, and the second unnamed, aged 6 days. The children living are Edna, Ethel, Mabel, Treva and Wanda.

Oil is being developed on Mr. Custer's farm and he now has three producing wells which pay him a royalty of about \$50 per month. It is his intention to erect a fine new frame house on the farm, in the summer of 1906. Mr. Custer is a member of the Church of God and is superintendent of the local Sunday-school of that denomination.

JOSEPH H. RITCHIE who owns a well-improved farm of 120 acres which is located in section 25, Hoaglin township, is one of the wide-awake and influential agriculturists of the county, and a gentleman whose influence has been invariably cast for the upbuilding of the community. He was born September 30, 1855, in Licking County, Ohio, and is a son of Joseph and Susan (Stoolfire) Richie, who settled in that county about 1850.

Joseph H. Ritchie attended the schools of Lima township, Licking County, where he attained manhood and engaged in farming. To this occupation he added stock-raising, remaining in his native county until 1882, when he came to Van Wert County and settled on the farm still occupied by him as a homestead.

Joseph H. Ritchie was married October 3, 1876, to Mary B. Merchant, a native of Licking County and a daughter of William W. Merchant, formerly a prominent resident of that county. To this union four children were born Clyde D., Nathan L., Herbert E. and Susanna M. Mr. Ritchie has taken an active interest in township affairs, has served for many years as director of school district No. 3 and is now serving on the township Board of Education. He is a Republican and was formerly trustee of the township, serving in that office most creditably and satisfactorily. Religiously, he is a member of Fairview United Brethren Church, of which he is at present treasurer.

JAMES PARKER, deceased, was for many years one of the progressive farmers of Liberty township, where he operated a farm of 160 acres in section 2. He was born in Hocking County, Ohio, on April 23, 1832, and was a son of John and Hannah (Holcomb) Parker.

James Parker was reared in Hocking County and received his education in the district schools of his native township. He moved to Van Wert County in 1862, where several years previously he had purchased 124 acres of land in Liberty township, and located on this farm. Mr. Parker was married three times and by his first wife, Saloma Beery, who died in February, 1869, he had five children, as follows: Wilbur F.; Elizabeth (Thomson); Albert; Amos LeRoy and Clara—the last named dying at the age of four years. His second marriage was with Clara Ford, who died one year after marriage. On January 20, 1874, he married Mrs. Louisa Brey, widow of William P. Brey, who was a soldier in the Civil war and died while in the service. Mr. and Mrs. Parker had two children—Mary Magdalene and John C. The former married William B. Johnson, in 1903, and has one child, Mary Lenore. John C. married Agnes Winklemayer and lives in Michigan, where he is a bookkeeper in a copper mine in the northern part of the State.

At the time of his death April 4, 1901, James Parker owned 160 acres of land, and his widow retains 84 acres of the homestead. The residence, a fine frame building, was erected in 1873, and the substantial barn was built in 1900. Mr. Parker was justice of the peace for six years, and also served several terms as trustee of Liberty township. The deceased was a member of the Evangelical Church.



G. M. HALL. Among the leading citizens of this county, perhaps none can show more satisfactory results than G. M. Hall, who came here from Germany when a poor boy, his only capital being his industry and stout-hearted hon-

esty, by which he rose to his present standing as an honored citizen of Van Wert and the proprietor of one of the city's largest drygoods stores. Mr. Hall was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, near Frankfort, on February 12, 1842, and is a son of John N. and Barbara (Roeder) Hall. His parents both remained in their native land, his father dying when our subject was about six years old. At the age of 18 he bade his mother farewell, and started out in the New World to do for himself. One brother, G. A. Hall, is a veteran of the Civil war and a retired citizen of Van Wert, while a sister, Anna Margaret, died in Germany.

Starting out alone in 1860, Mr. Hall came direct to Van Wert and was fortunate in securing a clerkship with T. S. McKim. Three years later in August, 1863, his patriotic spirit prompted his enlistment in Company M, Second Ohio Heavy Artillery, under Colonel H. G. Gibson, and he was sent south to Kentucky and then to Knoxville, Tennessee. He was in the army for two years, the last seven months being mostly devoted to detached service under General Thomas, who had his headquarters at Nashville. Returning to Van Wert, Mr. Hall became a clerk in the drygoods store of J. S. Brumback, and about 10 years later became a partner in the business, which was conducted jointly for seven or eight years. In 1883 Mr. Hall disposed of his interest in the store and established a drygoods business himself, his store being 24 by 132 feet in dimensions, with a room overhead for the storage of extra stock. He gives his entire time to his business and now has a fine store, owning both stock and building, in addition to which he has a half interest in the adjoining block, one of the finest in the city, which is occupied by a large clothing store.

In 1873 G. M. Hall was married to Hattie

L. Smith, daughter of Col. William Smith, M. D., of Van Wert. They have five children: Eva B., wife of Harry Sidle; Jessie L.; Grace M., a teacher in the High School and Erma J. and Raymond R., both of whom are attending school. Mr. and Mrs. Hall are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which they are active workers. He himself is a Republican, and was a member of the Board of Education for six years, during five years of that period acting as president of the board. He is also prominently connected with the Masonic fraternity.

LEWIS MILLER, one of Liberty township's first-class farmers, residing on a farm of 80 acres in section 13, was born in the township named, on November 9, 1872, and is a son of George and Margaret Miller, a full sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this work.

Lewis Miller was reared and educated and has always resided in his native township, being recognized as one of the most progressive young agriculturists of the locality. He was married on November 9, 1892, to Sylvia J. Rousch, a daughter of George and Mary Jane Rousch.

George Rousch was born in New York State and later moved to Medina County, Ohio, where he was married, settling in Van Wert County about 1866, and locating on a farm of 160 acres. He had three children, of whom but one is living—Mrs. Miller, the wife of our subject. William, the oldest, died in infancy, and Samuel, died at the age of two years. The father died in October, 1872; the widow resides in St. Marys, Ohio.

Lewis Miller and his wife have three children—Ottis G., Zella Gladys and Mary Marga-

ret. In 1895 Mr. Miller built a fine large barn on the homestead and in 1900 remodeled the family residence. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are both members of the Methodist Church.

JOHN LARE, deceased, one of Van Wert County's pioneer citizens, came here in November, 1844, settling in Tully township. He was a progressive citizen, and did much toward the development of his township. He was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, October 13, 1817, and was a son of Samuel Lare, who moved from Pennsylvania to Crawford County, Ohio, where he lived until his death. The mother of our subject was in single life Mary Ann Leap.

Upon coming to Tully township, John Lare entered 120 acres of land, to which he added from time to time until at his death he had 360 acres. A part of this land he cleared with the assistance of his sons. It was partly swamp land, and the clearing difficult, as the land had to be ditched before the timber could be removed.

On December 24, 1840, John Lare was united in marriage in Crawford County, Ohio, with Susannah Roop, who was born near Harrisburg, Lancaster County, Ohio, July 30, 1820, and is a daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Eshelman) Roop. Her father was born in Pennsylvania, and after marriage located in Crawford County, Ohio. Although he never located in Van Wert County, he entered half a section of land in Tully township, much of it swamp land, and at that time considered of little value. Mr. and Mrs. Lare became parents of the following children: Sarah Ann, wife of W. M. North of Portland, Indiana; Elizabeth, wife of John D. Friedline, of Monroeville, Indiana; Peter and Rebecca, both de-

ceased in infancy; Joseph P., who lives in Tully township; Susanna, who married John S. Van Gundy, and lives on the home place; John D. a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; and Mary A., who died the age of one year.

Politically he was a Know Nothing, a Free Soiler, a Democrat and a Republican at successive periods, his changes representing changes in the principles of the parties. He was the first postmaster in Tully township, the post office now being known as Convoy. Religiously, he was a member of the "Old School" Lutheran Church. He died September 24, 1893, and was buried in the Tully Union Cemetery.

Mrs. Lare died February 24, 1906, aged almost 86 years, and was buried beside her husband in Tully Union Cemetery. Up to the time of her death, she was in the enjoyment of good health, and retained her faculties to a remarkable degree. She was a pleasing conversationalist, and recalled a number of amusing incidents of pioneer life. One of them related to an early-day trip to market at Fort Wayne, made by her deceased husband and a neighbor. On their return trip, they waited over night at Flat Rock, as the creek was too high to cross, and shortly were joined by more neighbors. The water having gone down sufficiently, they hitched three oxen to one of the wagons and piled poles on the wagon to keep the provisions raised above the water. A number of men were at the back end of the wagon to keep the load in place. On approaching the opposite bank, a steep ascent had to be made. Unfortunately the poles and provisions slipped off, most of the men being brushed into the water. A son of one of the men was not a good swimmer and floundered about, but was finally brought to the bank without the father's assis-

tance, as the latter was more interested in saving a jug of whisky which also was in jeopardy.

Mrs. Lare had 25 great-grandchildren, and possessed a remarkable picture showing herself and 21 great-grandchildren. June 25, 1903, a family reunion was held, at which 72 were present, of which number 66 were members of the family. A picture of this gathering was also taken at the time.



WELLS WICKISER, deceased, was formerly one of the substantial and highly respected citizens of Van Wert; one whose ample fortune had been honestly earned through his own efforts. Mr. Wickiser was born November 1, 1829, in Harlem township, near Center Village Delaware County, Ohio, and died at his home, the "Maple Grove Dairy Farm" (now included in the city limits) on January 23, 1896. His parents were Philip and Mary (Miller) Wickiser.

The family of which Wells Wickiser was a worthy member was established in Ohio in the days of his grandfather, who came to this State from Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Mr. Wickiser's great-grandfather (Wicks) was killed by the Indians at Wyoming Springs, Pennsylvania, while guarding the springs there. Both of our subject's parents were born in Pennsylvania although they were reared in Ohio. Philip Wickiser, the father, enlisted for service in the Civil war, at Newark, Ohio, and died on the transport boat "Tycoon" within 40 miles of Cincinnati, in which city he was later interred. The mother survived him until 1874, dying at the age of 60 years. She had resided on a farm near Columbus and received a pension from the U.

ernment. Our subject was the oldest of their family of 10 children.

Wells Wickiser remained on the home farm until his marriage in 1855. After a short period passed in Columbus, on March 23, 1864, he located at Van Wert. Formerly he had combined farming and brick-making, and for three years after coming to this city he worked in the brick kilns of a local firm, and then entered the stave factory of Brumback & Butler, with whom he remained a number of years. He also worked some seven years in the mill and feed store of Levi Meredith, but in the fall of 1878, having acquired some desirable property, he established a dairy business upon his home place of 10 acres, which has since been known as the "Maple Grove Dairy Farm." This property has greatly increased in value, now being within the corporate limits of the city. Other property owned by Mr. Wickiser comprised 16 acres adjoining the fair grounds, and a building opposite the Hotel Avenue—which is under rental. During his 17 years in the dairy business Mr. Wickiser erected all the substantial buildings on his property and made all the improvements. Mrs. Wickiser still carries on the dairy in a small way.

On August 26, 1855, Wells Wickiser was married to Annah Devereaux Belknap, a cousin of Secretary Belknap, of President Grant's cabinet. His wife was born October 4, 1835, at Alexandria, Licking County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Foris and Sarah (Bateman) Belknap, the latter of whom was a granddaughter of General Bateman, of Revolutionary fame. It is a record in history that his honorable position on his general's staff was third from the officer selected to receive the sword of General Burgoyne. In the late General Buell, the distinguished general in the Civil war, Mrs. Wickiser had another military cousin.

The late Mr. Wickiser was a Republican in his political views. He was frequently offered public office, but persisted in refusing, believing that his defective early education would interfere with faithful and satisfactory service. He was a man of excellent business perceptions and was successful in whatever he undertook. He had many friends who knew him to be a man of sterling character, honest and upright in all his commercial transactions and a good, reliable citizen.



HENRY B. STEMEN, a well-known agriculturist and prominent citizen of Jackson township, owner and proprietor of the "Buckeye Stock Farm", situated in section 16, was born in Perry County, Ohio, December 1, 1851, being a son of George and Lydia (Berkholder) Stemen. The father of Mr. Stemen was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and the mother in Virginia. They were early settlers in their section of Perry County. The venerable father, now in his 80th year, is a resident of Jackson township, this county, but the mother passed away on August 6, 1902.

Henry B. Stemen was reared in Perry County and, during his boyhood, as opportunity offered attended the district schools. The larger part of his training, however, was in the line of agriculture, and it has resulted in his being a very successful farmer and stock-raiser. Prior to coming to Van Wert County, Mr. Stemen resided for several years in Fairfield County, but in 1882 he settled with his family on his present valuable farm of 120 acres, in Jackson township. At the time, however, there was no indication of his present well-cultivated fields, the heavy timber yet cov-

ering all his land. Before it assumed its present prosperous appearance, Mr. Stemen had spent years of hard work upon it. In connection with farming he now devotes much intelligent attention to the raising of high-grade live-stock.

On September 16, 1875, Henry B. Stemen was married to Lydia Huddle, who was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Daniel and Barbara (Beery) Huddle, the former of whom was born in Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Stemen have become the parents of these children: Leefie M., wife of Ira Cashel, of Jackson township; Estella B., wife of Irven Swander, of Jackson township; and Raymond G., Ida, Ella, Perry H. and Stanley C., all living at home.

Politically Mr. Stemen is a Republican. He is one of the school directors of District No. 4 and gives time and attention to the advancement of the cause of education in his locality. Mr. Stemen was one of the active promoters of the enterprise which resulted in the building of the H. B. Stemen turnpike road, which skirts his farm and is a great public convenience. Both he and his wife are active members of the Elm Grove Methodist Episcopal Church, of Jackson township. Mr. Stemen has been one of the trustees of the church and an official both in the church and Sunday-school.

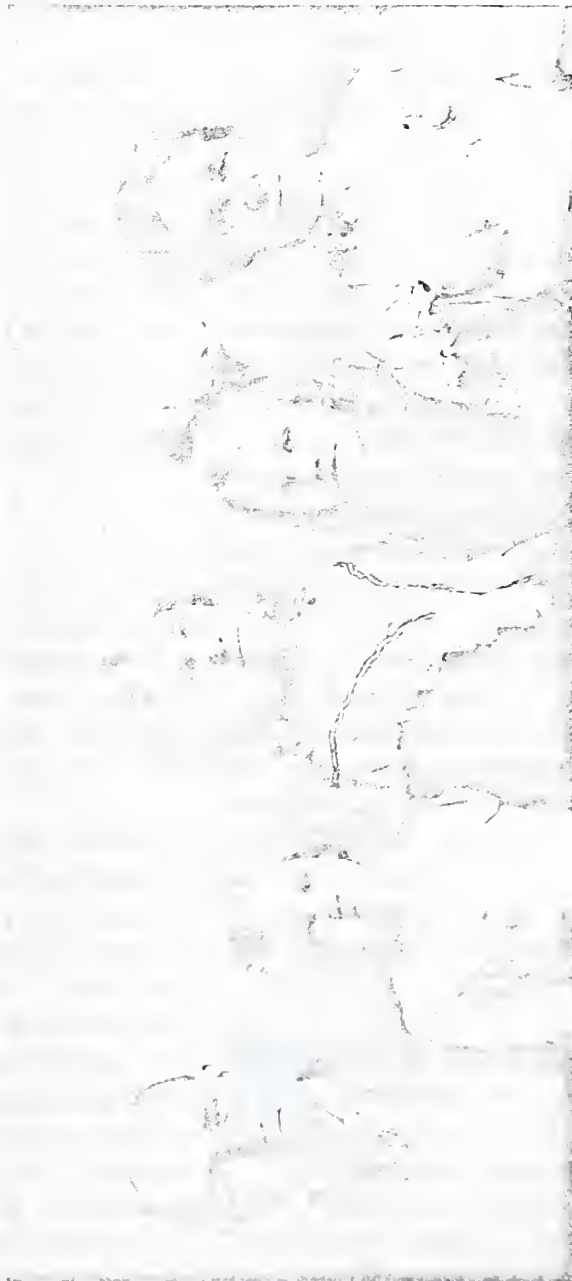
ADAM L. UHRICH, a well-known enterprising agriculturist of Liberty township, resides on his farm of 40 acres in section 17. He is a native of Tuscarawas County, Ohio, and is a son of William and Susan (Myers) Uhrich.

William Uhrich was born April 4, 1815, and was a son of Michael Uhrich and grandson of Michael Uhrich, Sr., who was a native of

Germany, and later came to this country and settled in Pennsylvania. Michael Uhrich, Jr., was a Pennsylvanian by birth, but moved to Uhrichsville, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, which was named after Michael Uhrich, Jr., grandfather of our subject, and is now a town of 10,000 inhabitants.

In 1865, William Uhrich, the father, moved to Liberty township, Van Wert County, and settled on a farm of 80 acres. In the following year he built a log house, which is still standing and occupied by his son Adam and family. Mr. Uhrich married Susan Myers, by whom he had the following six children, three of whom are living: Belle, who married J. A. Exline and lives in Lima; William, who died in infancy; Adam L., the subject of this sketch; Fletcher Scott, a brakeman on the railroad, who was killed at Pittsburg, February 18, 1904; Ursula, who married Benjamin Smith and died in Texas, on January 19, 1906; and Edward, who lives in Pittsburg. William Uhrich died May 17, 1882, aged 57 years, and his wife died on June 4, 1877, at the age of 45. William Uhrich had been previously married to a Miss Huston, by whom he had several children, the three survivors being—Marvill (Scott), who resides in Scott, Ohio; Florence (Buffington), of Uhrichsville, Ohio; and Jennie (Collins), a resident of Steubenville, Ohio. Another daughter, Catherine, is deceased.

Adam L. Uhrich is one of the best known farmers in Liberty township and was practically raised here, as he was only five years old when his parents settled in this county. He assisted his father in clearing the timber from the land and has done much work of the same kind for other people. During the summer of 1905 he erected a large barn costing about \$2,000 which is 34 by 50 feet in dimensions and has a solid cement floor, laid by Mr. Uhrich himself. Mr. Uhrich was one of the leaders in the



DR. AND MRS. L. E. BEAGHLER AND FAMILY

introduction of pike roads into Liberty township and he himself constructed the first three miles therein.

Mr. Uhrich was married December 2, 1886, to Anna Wolfe, a daughter of David and Catherine Wolfe, and they have become the parents of six children:—John Lawrence, Flossie May, Mary Hazel, Ivy Leola, Edith and William Scott, whose death occurred at the age of 18 months, on February 5, 1905. Mr. Uhrich is a Republican and was elected township trustee by that party, serving from 1901 to 1905. As to his religious connections, he is a member and trustee of the United Brethren Church at Wolfe's Corners.



E. BEAGHLER, M. D., physician and surgeon at Middlepoint, and a citizen prominent in public affairs, was born in this village March 22, 1872, and is a son of Dr. A. C. and Leah Beaghlér.

Dr. A. C. Beaghlér, the father, for many years one of the prominent and well-beloved physicians of Van Wert County, was born at Fremont, Ohio. After completing his primary education in the public schools of that city, he entered upon the study of medicine and subsequently graduated with credit from the Western Reserve Medical College, Cleveland. For a period of 10 years he practiced medicine at Mendon, Mercer County, Ohio, and then came to Middlepoint, where he remained in active practice for over a quarter of a century, his death occurring December 22, 1895. Both of his sons have adopted his profession, L. E. being well established at Middlepoint, and A. L. being a student in the medical department of the University of Michigan. The mother of

our subject makes her home at Ann Arbor, Michigan.

L. E. Beaghlér completed his literary training in the Middlepoint High School and the Western Ohio Normal School at Middlepoint, and, after pursuing a course at the Wooster (Ohio) University into the sophomore year, entered Rush Medical College, Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1896. The death of his father recalled him to Middlepoint, where he assumed his father's practice, to which he himself has added many patrons during his decade in the profession.

In 1894 Dr. Beaghlér was married to Alice Fisher, who is a daughter of Benjamin and Margaret Fisher, of Middlepoint, and they have three children, viz.: Margaret Leah, Rachel Madeline and Una Gladys. A picture of Dr. and Mrs. Beaghlér and their three daughters accompanies this sketch.

Dr. Beaghlér and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Aside from his engrossing professional demands, Dr. Beaghlér has not a vast amount of time at command, but occasionally has consented to serve as a member of the Town Council. His fraternal associations are with the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias.



GEORGE W. KETZENBARGER, a prominent and influential farmer residing in section 28, Hoaglin township, was born in Hancock County, Ohio, February 15, 1859. He is a son of Sebastian and Rachel (Cramer) Ketzenbarger, the former a native of Germany, and the latter, of Fairfield County, Ohio. Mrs. Ketzenbarger's parents were born in Pennsylvania, of German ancestry. About 1866 the family removed to Wood County where our subject at-

tended the public school and developed into manhood. In 1900 he came to Van Wert County and took up his residence on the farm he now occupies, having made many warm friends in the few years of his residence here.

George W. Ketzenbarger has been twice married, his first marriage being with Cora Fisher of Pennsylvania, to whom he was wedded on February 3, 1886, and who is now deceased. On October 10, 1900, he was united to Ida V. Sherburn, who was born in Champaign County, Ohio, December 4, 1868, and is a daughter of John and Catherine (Huddle) Sherburn, who were natives of Fairfield County, Ohio. About 1873 Mr. and Mrs. Sherburn moved from Champaign to Darke County, where they lived some 12 years, at that time coming to Hoaglin township and later moving into Van Wert, where they now reside. They are the parents of eight children, viz.: Thomas; Ida V. (Mrs. Ketzenbarger); Edward D., a resident of Scottville, Michigan; Charles E., of Berne, Indiana; Joseph C.; Edith (Mrs. Eustace H. Wisely), of Putnam County; Mary E. (Mrs. Joshua Gillispie), of Berne, Indiana; and Earl J. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ketzenbarger are members of Pleasant View Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Ketzenbarger is a Democrat. He is deeply concerned in public improvements, having taken an active interest in the good-roads movement and worked hard to secure turnpikes.



JOHN KETZENBARGER. One of the old and well-established families of Ohio, of German extraction, is that of Ketzenbarger, and a worthy representative of it is found in John Ketzenbarger, who owns a fine farm of 160 acres of valuable land, which is situated in section 28, Hoaglin town-

ship, Van Wert County. Mr. Ketzenbarger was born on November 28, 1851, not far from Findlay, in Hancock County, Ohio, and is a son of Sebastian and Rachel (Cramer) Ketzenbarger, and a grandson of Michael and Eve (Stanngy) Ketzenbarger.

In 1835 the grandparents of John Ketzenbarger emigrated from Germany to America. They belonged to the best class of Germans and through their thrift and industry developed a fine farm in Hancock County, Ohio, on which both died.

Sebastian Ketzenbarger was born August 31, 1823, in Germany, and was the only son in his father's family. The latter had been the only son in the grandfather's family. Sebastian was 12 years old when he accompanied his parents to Ohio, where his whole life was spent as a farmer and stock-raiser. He married Rachel Cramer, who was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and was a daughter of Philip and Christina Cramer. Mr. and Mrs. Cramer were both born in Pennsylvania of German ancestry, and removed to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1830. Mrs. Ketzenbarger had three brothers and one sister, of whom one brother only is living—Daniel Cramer, who lives on his farm eight miles west of Findlay; he is 86 years old, while his wife is 80. The children of Sebastian Ketzenbarger and wife were: Isabella (Wentz), deceased; John, the subject of this sketch; Andrew, of Wood County, Ohio; Sarah, deceased; Irene (Fisher), of Ridge township; George W. and Ella (twins), the former a resident of Hoaglin township and the latter deceased in infancy; Oliver, the operator of the home farm; and Mary Ann (Foltz) of Hoaglin township. Mrs. Sebastian Ketzenbarger was a member of the United Brethren Church.

John Ketzenbarger went to school until he was 15 years old, in the meantime assisting his

father on the farm. The family then removed to Wood County and settled near the present site of North Baltimore, and there our subject resided until 1890, when he came to Van Wert County and settled on a farm of 160 acres, in section 28, Hoaglin township, which he still owns but which is occupied by his son-in-law. Mr. Ketzenbarger farmed this property himself until 1902, when he turned it over to his son-in-law, J. C. Sherburn, who is a very capable farmer. Since then he has resided with his aged father-in-law, in section 21, Union township, the latter being a widower with all his children married and with domestic ties of their own.

On February 22, 1872, Mr. Ketzenbarger was married to Mary Elizabeth Fackler, who was born in Richland County, Ohio, not far from Mansfield, on January 29, 1853. She is a daughter of Henry H. and Nancy (Bear) Fackler. Nancy (Bear) Fackler, mother of Mrs. Ketzenbarger, was born March 14, 1819, near Hummelstown, Pennsylvania, where her father, Henry Bear, owned a fine farm. On this farm he built a stone barn in 1819. This historic barn is a landmark, having been remodeled a few years ago and still stands as an example of the substantial character of the building of long ago. The father of Henry Bear was a Swiss Waldensian, who emigrated from Switzerland to America, shortly before the Revolutionary War, a member of a colony which came hither to escape religious persecution, willing to give up all the temporal wealth and advantages they had in their own land in order that they might worship according to their belief, in peace and safety.

Mrs. Ketzenbarger's great-grandfather Bear settled near Philadelphia, where he married a lady who was also of Swiss parentage. It is on record that he served faithfully with the patriot army during the Revolutionary

War, and after its close settled down to an agricultural life. At the time of his death he owned 12 fine farms in Pennsylvania, one of which, known as the "Mansion Farm," came into the possession of his son Henry, and on that Mrs. Fackler was born. Her brothers and sisters, eight in number, lived to be 60 years of age, two dying young. Her mother lived to be 79 years old but her father died at the age of 54 years. Mrs. Fackler was reared in the Mennonite faith. She was faithful to every duty in life and was beloved for her many Christian traits. She died January 23, 1897.

Henry H. Fackler, father of Mrs. Ketzenbarger, was born near Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, on June 23, 1823, and was a son of Abram and Barbara (Hough) Fackler, natives of Pennsylvania. Abram Fackler lived to be 89 years old, while his wife died at the age of 83. Abram Fackler was a son of Wendal Fackler, who was born in Germany and came to Philadelphia when a young man some years before the Revolutionary War. He worked to earn money to bring to America his two brothers, George and Adam Fackler, who after they arrived here served all through the Revolutionary War. Henry H. Fackler holds an old deed as a relic that was made in 1807 by his grandfather, Wendel Fackler, to Abram Fackler, father of Henry H. Fackler, which came into his possession when he settled up his father's estate. Abram Fackler had a fine farm in Pennsylvania and helped his 11 children to homes. He lived to advanced years and became so childish that he did not know his own children, although he never forgot to pray, being always faithful to his Christian duties. The brothers and sister of Henry H. Fackler were 14 in number, of whom 11 lived to be married; five lived to be 82 years old—Mr. Fackler, himself is now nearly 83 and is the only one living of the family. All

died in Pennsylvania and Ohio but three; of these three, Samuel Fackler and Mrs. Hunsbarger died in Iowa while Wendel Fackler died in South Dakota; Samuel Fackler had one son who served all through the Civil war and is now 64 years of age. Henry H. Fackler saw both his grandfathers, Fackler and Hough, who served in the Revolutionary War.

When 17 years old, Henry H. Fackler accompanied his parents to Richland County, Ohio, where, on September 7, 1843, he married Nancy Bear. They had eight children, the two survivors of the family being: Mrs. Mary E. Ketzenbarger and Solomon B. Fackler, a resident of Union township. The others were: Emanuel, Leah, Sarah Ann (Fry), Martin and Alice (Young).

Henry H. Fackler owned and cleared an 80-acre farm, near Mansfield, in Richland County, Ohio. In 1869 he sold his farm and with his family moved to Wood County, where he bought 200 acres of land and lived thereon for 22 years. In 1891 he again sold and then removed to near Union Center, Van Wert County, where he purchased 240 acres of land. Subsequently he sold 80 of this, but still retains 160 acres. When he came to Van Wert County, he had four married children, all of whom he had assisted to secure homes. He still resides on his farm in section 21, Union township. Although almost 83 years of age, he takes an interest in family happenings and daily reads his Bible, being able to do so without the aid of glasses. He was reared in the faith of the German Baptist Church. All his life he has been a man of sterling character, honest and upright in all his dealings with his fellow men. He is passing the evening of life honored and respected and carefully looked after by affectionate kindred.

Mr. and Mrs. Ketzenbarger have five children, as follows: Homer, who is a prosperous

farmer in Union township; Herma Irena, who is the wife of C. E. Miller, of Van Wert; Florence Etta, who is the wife of C. E. Sherburn, of Van Wert; Alice, who is the wife of J. C. Sherburn, manager of the Ketzenbarger homestead in Hoaglin township; and Ernest, who is still in school.

Mr. Ketzenbarger is one of the leading and influential Democrats of this section and on numerous occasions he has been called upon to accept positions of responsibility in county and township. In 1897 he was elected a county commissioner and served as such for three years. He also served three terms as treasurer of Hoaglin township, one of these by appointment and two by election. His public services have been entirely satisfactory to his fellow citizens and his reputation is that of an able, honorable and hard-working official. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and the Elks, both at Van Wert.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Ketzenbarger belong to families whose prudence, wisdom, industry and success, have given proof of those qualities which make up the very best citizenship of America. For generations they have been home-builders, have cultivated their own lands and have given support and encouragement to education and religion in every community in which they have lived.




FRANCIS M. BALL, proprietor and operator of the oldest sawmill in Liberty township, also one of the most successful farmers of the locality, was born in Loudoun County, Virginia, in 1845, and is the son of James William Ball, who was a wagon-maker by trade.

Mr. Ball was reared and educated in Knox County, Ohio, whither his parents moved when he was still quite small. During his early

manhood he worked two summers on a farm, subsequently being employed by a firm, for three years, in cutting gun stocks for the United States government. Later he worked in a sawmill, finally entering the business himself in 1874 locating about two and a half miles south of Ohio City. He operated this mill for four years and then moved it into Ohio City. He was the fourth man to locate in Ohio City and is the pioneer sawmill operator of the city, being still engaged in that line—actively and most successfully. In connection with the sawmill business, Mr. Ball owns a well-improved homestead of 73 acres adjoining Ohio City, upon which he conducts general farming and stock-raising.


Francis M. Ball was married (first) in Hardin County, Ohio, to Mary Freeman, and there were four children by this union—Walter H., foreman in a lumber establishment at Urbana, Ohio; Charles D., living at home; Wilford, O., who died at the age of 11 years; and Clara B., wife of William Gloset, of Ohio City. Mrs. Mary Ball died January 1, 1900, and Mr. Ball's second marriage occurred in May, 1904, to Leona Meek.

Mr. Ball served for two terms in a most satisfactory manner, as treasurer of Liberty township; fraternally he is worshipful master of the Ohio City Lodge of Masons, and generally a substantial, faithful and able citizen.

RANKLIN PIERCE DULL, owner and operator of a fine farm of 120 acres situated in sections 16 and 17, Liberty township, born January 31, 1855, in Willshire township, Van Wert County, and is a son of Lenhart and Susanna (Ream) Dull, a sketch of whom will be found in the biography of James Monroe Dull.

Mr. Dull was reared in Willshire township, receiving his education in the schools of that locality, and in Van Wert County he has spent his entire life engaged in farming. He was married January 6, 1881, to Hattie E. Martin, a daughter of William and Caroline (Fitzsimmons) Martin. Mr. and Mrs. Dull have had eight children, six of whom are living: Curtis Olin, the eldest, was born January 5, 1882, and on August 28, 1889, fell from a beam 18 feet from the floor, dying within 30 minutes of the accident; his father was in Van Wert at the time. Gettis, who was born December 8, 1883, is now in North Dakota where he lives with an uncle. Flossie, who was born January 20, 1886, died October 14, 1887. Edna was born June 25, 1888; Ray, August 24, 1890; Imo, November 4, 1894; Edith, July 1, 1897, and Helen, November 26, 1901. Mr. Dull and family are members of the Lutheran Church.

After his marriage Mr. Dull moved into an old log house, on his present farm, which the family occupied until 1882, when he built a frame house—remodeled in 1895, but on February 4, 1898, entirely destroyed by fire. In the same year Mr. Dull erected the commodious frame residence which he now occupies.

EORGE W. ROLLER, one of the prosperous farmers of Van Wert County, residing on a well-developed farm of 60 acres, situated in section 35, York township, was born in 1862, in Columbiana County, Ohio, and is a son of John and Susannah (Fox) Roller.

The father of Mr. Roller was born in Mahoning County, and the mother in Columbiana County, Ohio, the parents moving to Van Wert County in 1865, and settling in York township, in what was then a perfect wilderness. At that time no clearing had been made for a

mile from their home in any direction, and game was very abundant. Our subject can still recall the fact that a number of years after, when he was old enough to handle a gun, wild turkeys were still plentiful. The father of George W. died September 5, 1865, leaving the widow with a family of children. She still survives, bearing well her weight of 85 years, and makes her home with a daughter in Jennings township. The children of John Roller and wife were: Martha (Mrs. Silas Rice), deceased; Albert J. and Allan F. (twins), the latter of whom died aged 24 years, the former being a farmer in Jennings township, his farm being located in section 31; Joseph M., a resident of Liberty township; Mary Jane (Mrs. Samuel Wentz), of Jennings township; John, of Michigan; George W., of York township; and Harriet, who died in infancy.

During her active years the mother of George W. Roller was a woman of much business capacity. Although she has endured much hardship, she retains her mental strength and much bodily activity, and still attends small social gatherings and church services at Elgin. The venerable lady is a charter member of the United Brethren Church of that town. When her husband died, she possessed 60 acres of uncleared land and a small log cabin, which it took a month to build after the family arrived—and she had little else, except her own ability and courage and a family of excellent children. She remained on the farm and was assisted in the farm work by her sons; she still retains this property in her husband's name and our subject rents and operates it. In 1883 the present comfortable home was erected, and in 1890 a substantial barn was added to the improvement of the place. Mr. Roller has always resided on this farm and is counted one of the excellent agriculturists of the township. Under his methods of cultivation the land

yields abundantly, his corn usually averaging 60 bushels to the acre.

On January 14, 1886, George W. Roller was married to Anna Black, who is a daughter of William and Margaret (Like) Black, of Jennings township. William Black was born in Perry County, Ohio, in 1835, a son of Henry and Susannah (Cary) Black. In 1861 Mr. Black enlisted in Company C, 62nd Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served for two years in the 24th Army Corps. Subsequently he reenlisted and his second term of service was concluded when he was honorably discharged on August 23, 1865. Mr. Black continued to farm in Perry County until his removal to Van Wert County, in 1876, and in December, 1889, settled on his present farm in section 7, Jennings township, now owning 50 acres there and 10 acres in section 6. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. On November 8, 1857, in Perry County, Ohio, Mr. Black was married to Margaret Like, who was born there November 13, 1839. They had 11 children, the survivors being: Flora, wife of J. M. Roller; Anna, wife of our subject; Carrie, wife of Henry Barber, of Van Wert County; Ellsworth, of Portland, Oregon; Eugene, who married Bessie Spohn, of Monticello; and Lawrence, living at home.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Roller have had five children, namely: Merle, who is a student at Mendon, Ohio; Floyd, deceased; Gladys; Wayne; and Ilo. Mr. and Mrs. Roller are worthy members and liberal supporters of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Elgin.

ALBERT J. ROLLER, the eldest brother of our subject, who resides on his farm in section 31, Jennings township, was born in Mahoning County, Ohio, June 3, 1847, being 16 years of age when his father died and left much of the family responsibility upon his shoulders. Although, on this account, he had fewer educa-



MR. AND MRS. HENRY SAUM

tional advantages than many others, he developed into a man of sterling character and most excellent judgment. In 1886 he was elected county commissioner and served as such for six years, during this period many most desirable public improvements being made in the county. Among others may be mentioned the building of the jail and the armory, and the digging of 300 ditches. On the Democratic ticket he was also elected trustee, and at the time he was chosen commissioner was serving as justice of the peace.

In 1868 Albert J. Roller was married (first) to Mary Jane Guthrie, who died October 2, 1894, being a daughter of George and Mary J. (Moore) Guthrie. Nine children were born to this union, as follows: Walter, a practicing physician of Willshire; Emory, who is a merchant and business man at Spokane, Washington; Ira, of Willshire, who married Rilda Whittredge, of West Virginia; Ada, wife of Byron Whittredge; Myrtle, wife of Ada Clark; Leota, who married John Hoage, of Pendleton, Indiana; and Marion, Ernest and Dwight, all residing at home. In 1897 Mr. Roller was married (second) to Nora Longsworth, and to this union have been born these children: Ralph, Alice, Ruth, and Roy and Ray, the two latter being twins.

Prior to settling in Jennings township, until 1875, Mr. Roller resided in York township, and he now is the owner of a well-improved, very valuable farm of 120 acres, which he has continued to operate to the present time. In many ways he has been one of the most useful men of his township. It was mainly through his efforts that the fine turnpike road was built through the township, which was accomplished without any heavy tax falling upon the citizens. He has also taken a great interest in the building of the public school system

and at various times has served on the School Board, frequently being the president of that body. He is also a member of the Van Wert County Fair Association.

The Roller family is numbered with the hardy pioneers of Van Wert County; for they came to its wild, uncultivated regions when most primitive conditions prevailed. George W. Roller, the youngest of the sons, can remember when all the land in the vicinity of the home was covered by wide-spreading forest trees, and when a common amusement was the hunting of porcupines, turkeys and raccoons, which ranged over the present sites of the most fertile and valuable farms of York and Jennings townships. These records are worthy of preservation.



ENRY SAUM, an extensive land owner of Van Wert County, has for many years been engaged in agricultural pursuits on a farm of 96 acres—48 acres of which are located in section 6, Washington township, and 48 acres in section 1, Ridge township. He also owns 114 acres in Jackson township. He was born July 14, 1828, and is a son of Adam and Margaret (Miller) Saum.

Adam Saum was born in 1795 in Shenandoah County, Virginia, and was a son of Nicholas Saum, who was born in Germany and came to the United States when 18 years of age. Nicholas Saum first settled near Richmond, Virginia, and later moved to Shenandoah County, that State, where he was first married. Altogether he was married four times and became the father of 22 children, the father of our subject, Adam Saum, being the youngest. Margaret (Miller) Saum, the

mother, was a daughter of George Miller, who served during the entire Revolutionary War. During three years of this period he was a captive of the Indians; when he finally escaped he rejoined the patriot army; he was at Valley Forge, during the winter of 1777-78 and at the siege of Yorktown. For his captain, Mr. Miller had that noted Indian fighter and frontiersman, Daniel Boone. In consideration of his loyal services, the government gave him land where Little York, Pennsylvania, now stands. Adam Saum was reared and educated in Virginia and there was married. In 1826 he came to Ohio, at that time being the father of six children. Later seven more children were born to him. Adam Saum died in 1855 and his wife two years afterward.

Henry Saum, who was the eighth child in his father's family, was practically raised in Knox County, whither his father moved from Licking County when Henry was but three years of age. The father owned a farm of 160 acres in Knox County which he sold in 1845, two years later removing to Van Wert County, where he first bought 80 acres of land. The family occupied a log cabin and the land was principally covered with timber, which necessitated clearing.

In 1853 Henry Saum was married to Rebecca Clendenning, a daughter of John Clendenning, of Van Wert, and by this marriage he had seven children: Antoinette, who married Wesley Johnson, of Ridge township, and has six children; Frank, who lives in Paulding County, where he is the owner of 240 acres of land; Ella, who married David Weaver and died in 1895, leaving four children—two of whom (Amanda and Rill) are living with Henry Saum, the other two being Homer and Nellie; Vasta, who married Ed. Kershaw and died leaving six children; Jennie (Mrs. Wil-

liam Clapper), of Washington township; John, who lives in Paulding County and owns 75 acres of land; and Belle, who died at the age of 16 years. Mrs. Rebecca Saum died in 1875. Mr. Saum's present wife was Mrs. Jennie Potts, widow of Henry Potts and daughter of Thomas and Margaret Redding, who lived in Indiana and died when their daughter was quite young. She had five children by her first husband, namely: Henry Albert, who died aged four years; James Franklin, who died at the age of 20; Perry Ladoyt, who entered the army at the time of the Spanish-American War, and died in the Sternberg Hospital at Macon, Georgia, when 22 years of age, the body being brought home and buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Van Wert; Jesse Lawrence, who lives in Ridge township and is the owner of 40 acres of land; and one child, who died in infancy. By Mr. Saum's second marriage, he had two children—Reuben and Garfield.

After his first marriage, Henry Saum moved from his father's farm to his present location, where he built a log house, having originally 129 acres of land. He formed a partnership with Messrs. Clendenning and Neff, embarked in the sawmill business and finally lost everything he owned. But, being young and persistent, he started anew and by hard and intelligent work recovered a part of his farm, being now the owner of 202 acres of land. In 1866 he built his present house, which is a large, substantial, brick building. During his younger days he was a cooper by trade and was engaged in this business for about 35 years. Henry Saum is a Mason, being the oldest living member of the Delphos lodge, having been connected with it for over 40 years. He is a member of the Methodist Church, whose house of worship stands on his farm. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Saum accompany this sketch.

JOHN KOOGLE, a successful agriculturist of Liberty township, who resides on his well-developed farm in section 21, was born in Richland County, Ohio, April 17, 1843, and is the oldest child of Jacob and Ellen (Moss) Koogle.

Jacob Koogle was born in Frederick County, Maryland, and was a son of Jacob Koogle, Sr., who was of German descent and it is thought was a native of Germany, but it is known that he was one of the old settlers of Frederick County, Maryland. Jacob Koogle, the father of John, was born in 1816, and in 1821 was taken by his parents to Richland County, Ohio, where the family settled on a farm of 160 acres. The place is still occupied by his youngest brother, George W. Koogle, who is a bachelor in his 81st year, and his son, Martin L., a brother of John Koogle. Jacob Koogle passed the remainder of his life as a farmer of Richland County and died September 20, 1901, aged 84 years, his wife having preceded him in 1880.

John Koogle was reared on his father's farm in Richland County and has always devoted his time and talents to agriculture. In 1874 he was married in Ashland County, Ohio, to Mary Amanda Scott, a daughter of John and Julia Scott, prominent old residents of the county named. His marriage took place in May, 1874, he and his bride going to Liberty township, Van Wert County, on their wedding trip, and while there buying his present farm, of which he took possession in the following November. In 1870 he had bought 80 acres of timber land in Liberty township, lying just south of his present location, this making a farm of 160 acres, which he retained until 1890, when he sold 40 acres of his first purchase. The "Clover Leaf" Railroad runs through his farm, cutting off about three acres. Mr. Koogle has cleared about 50 acres of the tim-

berland and now has the land in a high state of cultivation. The family first occupied an old, round-log house, which served as a home for 14 years, but was replaced in 1888, by his present large frame house. Mr. Koogle now has four producing oil-wells on the farm, and there still remains about 30 acres of timberland.

Mr. and Mrs. Koogle had two children, both girls. The oldest, Viola L., was born September 14, 1876, and still lives at home; Chloe Alice, born April 22, 1882, was married March 12, 1903, to Ralph Hileman, of Willshire township, and they have one child, Ethyl. Mrs. John Koogle died September 18, 1901.

Mr. Koogle is a stanch Democrat and was elected township clerk by that party, to serve a term of two years. Fraternally, he is a member of the I. O. O. F., and of Pleasant Grange. His religious connections are with the Evangelical Lutheran Church, in which he is a deacon.

JOHN HARPSTER, whose death occurred on March 29, 1891, had long been a prominent and substantial farmer and citizen of Monterey township, Putnam County, Ohio. He was born June 14, 1828, in Fairfield County, Ohio, and was a son of Anthony and Sophia Harpster.

Mr. Harpster was eight years old when his parents moved from Fairfield County to Allen County, where they lived until their death. He was educated in the schools of Allen County and was reared a farmer. There he was married and resided until February, 1852, when he removed to Putnam County. He bought, at first, 100 acres of land in Monterey township, and subsequently added to this property until he owned 500 acres in Putnam County. At the time of his death he left 190 acres to his

widow and bequeathed farms to several of his children. He was a man of unblemished character, with fine business capacity, and was regarded with respect and esteem by all with whom he was associated. He served as trustee of Monterey township. His burial was in Antioch Cemetery, in that township.

On November 22, 1849, Mr. Harpster was united in marriage with Elizabeth McMillen, who was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, August 6, 1827, and is a daughter of Samuel and Susan (Ridenour) McMillen. The McMillens were settlers in Allen County in 1834. Mr. and Mrs. Harpster had a family of 14 children, namely: Mary Elizabeth, born August 27, 1850, who married Amos Tongs, and died in Monterey township, December 14, 1893; George Washington, born January 17, 1852, who was married (first) to Rosina Stern, and (second) to Arreta Martin, and resides in Putnam County; Susan, born August 21, 1853, who married Martin Wise, and died October 4, 1874; Samuel, born February 23, 1855, who married Elizabeth Lochhead, and resides in Putnam County; Sophia, born February 8, 1857, who married C. A. Bray and lives in Paulding, Ohio; Sarah Luzina, born February 14, 1858, who married C. A. Bray; Eliza Jane, born February 5, 1860, who married Daniel D. Bailey and lives in Van Wert County; Ida, born April 18, 1862, who married Henry Gudakunst, and died in 1878; Anthony, born November 20, 1864, who died April 4, 1865; John Wesley, born in 1865, who died August 21, 1865, aged 5 months and 12 days; Eva, born March 30, 1867, who married John Gesner and lives in Putnam County; Carrie Jenettie, born June 15, 1875, who married Robert Martin, and lives in Putnam County; and Minerva Idella, born May 25, 1872, who resides with her mother.

After the death of Mr. Harpster, his widow

and daughter moved from the farm to Grove Hill, Paulding County, where they resided for eight years, after which they sold that property, and in August, 1903, settled at Delphos. Although Mrs. Harpster is 78 years of age, the mother of 14 children, 53 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, she still retains a great deal of her physical strength and all of her mental faculties. In 1904 she sold 160 acres of her land in Putnam County, retaining a 30-acre tract, which is very valuable. She is a lady well known and much esteemed in Delphos. Both she and her daughter are valued members of the Christian Church.



GEORGE WILLIAM ZANER, a well-known carpenter and contractor of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in this county, April 5, 1872, and is a son of John A. and Katherine (Shoemaker) Zaner. The father was a native of Crawford County, Ohio, and the mother, of Pennsylvania, being formerly engaged in agricultural pursuits but now residing in Van Wert. Their three children were: George William, of this sketch; Harry Albert, deceased; and Rosa Ann, wife of R. J. Whitecraft, of Van Wert.

George William Zaner was reared on his father's farm and educated in the district schools; began to learn the carpenter's trade at the age of 15 years, and was 23 years old when he accompanied his parents to Van Wert. Here he has since been continuously engaged in building and contracting, his work including many residences and the construction of 17 elevators in this vicinity. As a good, reliable, skillful carpenter and builder, Mr. Zaner commands much custom.

On August 7, 1892, Mr. Zaner was united in marriage with Ora Pearl Welker, who

born January 25, 1883, and was reared at Delphos, being a daughter of Elijah and Mary (Rhodes) Welker. For several years past—both before and since her marriage—she has resided with Mrs. Wells Wickiser. Mr. and Mrs. Zaner have one son, Raymond. Politically Mr. Zaner is a Republican, and fraternally is connected with the Home Guards of America.

DAVID REED, proprietor of the farm known as "The Hickory Nuts," a well-cultivated tract of 80 acres of valuable land located in section 1, Jackson township, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, May 1, 1855, and is a son of Lemuel and Catharine (Baker) Reed.

Being left fatherless when he was but three years of age, David Reed was carefully reared by a good mother, and taught to be honest and industrious. He attended school during his boyhood, until able to make his own way in the world, and earnestly turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. For a short period after his marriage he continued to live in Fairfield County; then for a time resided in Pickway County, and thence removed to Fayette County where he lived for 14 years. Afterward he returned to Pickway County, but in the fall of 1894 settled in Jackson township, Van Wert County, where he has since resided, occupying his present fine farm in 1900. Here he carries on extensive agricultural enterprises and raises a large amount of excellent stock.

In 1881 Mr. Reed was married to Amanda Adams, who was born in Pennsylvania and is a daughter of David Adams, formerly of Fairfield County. Three children have been born to their union—Florence E.; Mary M. (Mrs. Richard Wyatt), of Paulding County; and Robert L.

Mr. Reed formerly served as school director in Hoaglin township, and has taken a deep and abiding interest in the public schools. He belongs to the lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Grover Hill. Politically Mr. Reed is a Democrat, and in the fall of 1905 was elected a trustee of Jackson township for term of three years. In his religious faith he is identified with the Elm Grove Methodist Episcopal Church.

JOHN A. TOMLINSON, one of the best known farmers of Ridge township, owns a farm of 140 acres in section 21, upon which he resides. He was born in Mercer County, Ohio, October 11, 1848, and is a son of Joseph F. and Mary (Arnold) Tomlinson. The father was born in Madison County and the mother in Fayette County, Ohio. The paternal grandfather, John Tomlinson, was one of the early settlers of Mercer County, and the maternal grandfather, John Arnold, came to Van Wert County and settled in York township.

John A. Tomlinson received a good common-school education in Mercer County, and it was not until he had reached his maturity that he located in Van Wert County. Here he was married to Martha E. Gilliland on November 4, 1873. She is a native of Van Wert County and is one of 11 children born to Adam and Sarah (Shaffner) Gilliland, viz: John, a farmer of Ridge township; Julia A., wife of Christian Palmer, of Ridge township; Shaffner M., of Ridge township; Mary F., wife of Hon. Jonas S. Stuckey, of Ridge township; Elizabeth S., wife of Christian Housted, of Kansas; Samuel B., of Ridge township; Robert of Ridge township; Martha E.; and three who are deceased. Adam Gilliland was a native of Maryland, and his wife, of Pennsylvania. Both

have passed to the higher life, but they have left enduring memories enshrined in the hearts of those who knew them. Coming to Ridge township at an early day, they took a leading part in the work of building up and advancing the general welfare of the public, and were honored and esteemed by all. Mr. Gilliland, who was a "War" Democrat, was trustee of Ridge township for many years and also served as assessor.

Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson are the parents of eight children, namely: Mabel F., wife of William E. Poe, of Ridge township; Edward L., of Ridge township; Lulu, wife of Samuel Sherrick, of Allen County; Bertha S., wife of Arthur Pollock, of Columbus, Ohio; Wilma M., who lives with her parents; Clarence A., who is also living at home; and two that died in childhood. Both Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson are earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Tomlinson is a Republican and has served as clerk of the township three terms. He is at present an efficient member of the township School Board.

LEWIS SWITZER, a progressive agriculturist of Liberty township, resides in section 21, on a farm of 80 acres, which he keeps in a state of high cultivation and which has been made valuable because of the discovery on it of oil and gas. He was born in Richland County, Ohio, December 13, 1846, and is a son of Frederick and Catharine (Moser) Switzer. His father was also born in Richland County, a son of Frederick Switzer, Sr., who was a native of Switzerland, where he was reared, educated and married. He emigrated to America and located in Richland county, being one of its pioneers and one of its most prominent farmers. It is an inter-

esting fact that he built the first blockhouse in Richland County, to be used in fighting the Indians.

Frederick Switzer, the father of Lewis, obtained his education in the district schools, and remained on the home farm assisting his father until he reached his majority. In 1858, after his marriage, he moved to Van Wert County and settled on a farm of 40 acres. During the Civil war he served in Company F, 64th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., under Captain Finfrock. His regiment was engaged in many battles of the first year's conflict; after the battle of Pittsburg Landing, he became ill, dying in the General Hospital in Mississippi, in June, 1862. His wife passed away in 1866.

Lewis Switzer spent his early boyhood days in Richland County, and when 11 years of age his parents moved to Liberty township, where he obtained the greater part of his education and has always been engaged in farming. In July, 1872, he was married to Catharine Hitesman, a daughter of David and Catharine Hitesman, the former a native of Jersey, and the latter of Clermont County, Ohio. In 1864 Mr. Switzer enlisted in Company I, 139th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served until the close of the war, the injuries received in the service bringing him a pension of \$17 per month.

Mr. and Mrs. Switzer have reared to maturity seven children, namely: David, who married Catharine South, lives on part of the home farm, and is the father of two children—Leona Jane and Floyd; Jennie; Orlida C., wife of Jacob Rader, of Liberty township, and the mother of one child (Asa McKinley Spray) by her first marriage with the late Arthur Spray; Mary, who lives at home; Eva, who married Naaman King and lives in Rockford, Mercer County; and John and Charles, who reside at home.

For many years Mr. Switzer lived on a

farm of 13 acres, about four miles northwest of his present home, where he built a store which he conducted successfully for many years. In 1890 he sold the store and bought a farm of 80 acres in sections 17 and 20, which has since been his homestead. He is also the owner of three lots in Ohio City, and has three producing oil-wells and one gas-well in operation on his farm. Mr. Switzer has served his township in a number of offices, having been for many years supervisor and school director of Liberty township. His religious membership is with the Lutheran Church, and politically he is a Republican.

JAMES SEITZ, who resides on a highly cultivated and well-improved farm of 160 acres in section 5, Washington township, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, September 4, 1858, and is a son of Andrew Jackson Seitz, who still resides in the above named township.

James Seitz has lived the greater part of his life in Washington township, and in April, 1901, was married to Mrs. Eva (Reeder) Armstrong, widow of Adam Armstrong. Mrs. Seitz was born in Tippecanoe City, Ohio, the only child of George and Rebecca (Mannen) Reeder. Mr. Reeder was a farmer, who in 1862 moved to a place near Delphos, where for a time he farmed, and then entered the service of the Union Army, in which he died. His widow was subsequently married to John Hepfer, by whom she became the mother of these three children: Lida, now deceased, who married William Jewell; John, who died aged four years; and Melvin, who died at the age of nine months. The father died in December, 1905, but his widow is still living at Delphos.

Mrs. Seitz was married to Adam Armstrong April 19, 1882, and by him had eight children: Etta, who was married to William Gattshall in October, 1905, and lives in Washington township; Chester; Rosa, who died at the age of eight years; Bessie; Otis, who died aged five years; Frances; Hazel, who died at the age of three; and Nelson. Mr. Armstrong died April 20, 1897.


Mrs. Seitz owns the fine farm of 160 acres on which the family now reside, and she and her children are all members of the Lutheran Church at Middlepoint.

JOHN W. SHUMAKER, superintendent of the Van Wert County Infirmary, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, October 8, 1850, and is one of a family of nine children born to his parents. John and Rebecca (Beery) Shumaker—farming people and natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Mr. Shumaker was reared on his father's farm, and in his boyhood attended the schools of Fairfield County. In 1888 he came to Van Wert County, Ohio, where he has carried on farming ever since. In 1900 he was made superintendent of the County Infirmary, which comprises a tract of 320 acres of land. Mr. Shumaker manages this large acreage to the entire satisfaction of the residents of the county, having five men in his employ. At present there are 36 inmates cared for on the farm, and their comfort and well-being is carefully attended to by Mr. Shumaker.

On August 12, 1869, John W. Shumaker married Laura A. Baker, who is a daughter of Amos Baker, of Lancaster, Ohio, and they have a family of four sons and one daughter. James W. Shumaker, the oldest, married Nancy Hickman, of this county, resides in

North Baltimore, Ohio, where he has charge of a large stone-quarry, and is the father of one child, Wilma Helen; John A. married Anna Clapper, of Van Wert County, resides on a farm near Middlepoint and has three children—Floyd, Esther and Willie; Eli married Metha Bell, of Van Wert, lives in Middlepoint and has two children—Arthur and Lucile; Frank married Lillie Quackenbush, of Van Wert County, and resides in Washington township on a farm, their two children being Carl and Marjorie; Maude, wife of W. S. Johnson, of Van Wert County, resides on a farm in Ridge township, and is the mother of three children—Valera, Harold and John Franklin (an infant son). The family of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Shumaker belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically Mr. Shumaker is identified with the Republican party.

EORGE EMERSON LICHTY, a well known citizen and prosperous farmer of Liberty township, residing on his farm of 80 acres in section 26, was born in Hoaglin township, Van Wert County, April 17, 1853, and is a son of Jacob and Sarah (Fikner) Lichty.

Jacob Lichty and his wife were both born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. His father, who was a native of Switzerland, upon coming to this country located first in Pennsylvania; later he moved to Stark County, Ohio, when his son, Jacob, was still a small child. Jacob Lichty was therefore practically reared and educated in Stark County. Here he was married to Sarah Fikner. Later they moved to Seneca County, Ohio, where they remained for several years. To this union were born seven children, only three of whom are living. The record is as follows: John, who

died in the Civil war, who was member of Company A, 99th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., under Capt. W. C. Scott, and later under Capt. W. T. Exline; Mary (Mrs. Tobias Koogle) deceased; Jacob, who lived in Rockford, Mercer County, where he died in 1902; Sarah, who died at the age of 12 years; Benjamin, who lives in Mercer County; George Emerson; and Alice, who married James Shingeldecker and lives in Rockford. The two youngest children were born in Van Wert County; the others in Seneca County. Jacob Lichty is still living and resides in Rockford, Mercer County, and although past 88 years of age retains the strength and mental vigor of a man many years his junior.

George E. Lichty was reared and educated in his native county. Here he has always lived, devoting his time to the development of his well-improved farm, which he bought, and on which he located shortly after his marriage, on October 3, 1877, to Celia Overholt, a daughter of Sanson and Elma Overholt. Mrs. Lichty died February 18, 1906. They had 10 children, of whom the eldest died in infancy, unnamed. The remaining nine, seven of whom are now living, are as follows: Olney, who died August 30, 1897, aged 17 years; Bessie, who married George Umbaugh, of Ohio City, and has two children—Carol and Della May; Ida, who married Wesley Skinner and lives in Ohio City; Cora, who married Charles Krugh, of Ohio City, and has one child—Freddie; Goldie; Ora; Roy; and Don and Von (twins) the latter deceased at the age of six weeks. For many years the family lived in a house built of hewn logs. In 1906 the fine large frame house, which the family now occupy, was erected. Mr. Lichty and family are all members of the Church of God, of Liberty township, of which he is also one of the trustees.

When Mr. Lichty was about 45 years old

he had a cancer develop on his lower lip. He treated with many doctors, and at last was given a remedy by one of the many he had consulted, which completely cured him. He has since made this disease a study, and now guarantees to cure any case of cancer, and makes this business a specialty. It is his intention to establish at his country home, in the near future, a hospital for the cure of cancer. He has an ideal location for such a hospital, with his large, modern house, and fresh country air such as could not be found in the environs of a city.

JEREMIAH EAST, a progressive farmer of Washington township, who resides on a fine farm of 124 acres which is situated in sections 16 and 21, was born in German township, Allen County, Ohio, on April 12, 1852, and is the oldest son of Abraham and Jane (McMillen) East.

Abraham East, the father, was born in Pennsylvania, his grandfather, John East, being a Hessian soldier who was brought to America from Germany, during the Revolutionary War, and who later settled in Pennsylvania. When quite small Abraham came from Pennsylvania with his parents and located in Allen County. There he was reared and married to Jane McMillen, daughter of James W. McMillen. The father of Mrs. Abraham East was of Irish descent. He was engaged in farming in Pennsylvania, later moved to Knox County, Ohio, and finally located in Allen County, where he lived until the time of his death.

In the spring of 1863 Abraham East moved from Allen County to Washington township, Van Wert County, and bought 120 acres of land. He increased the original tract until at

the time of his death, in 1870, he owned 242 acres. The deceased had nine children, of whom Jeremiah was the oldest son, the family in the order of birth being as follows: Mary Elmira (Grant), now deceased; Martha Matilda (Morris), of Jackson township; Rhuhama Jane (Freeman), who lives in Leipsic, Ohio; Jeremiah, subject of this sketch; Isaiah, who resides in Allen County; Florence M., who died at the age of 27 years; John William, a sketch of whom will be found in this work; Ada May (Rice), of Washington township; and Catherine, who died aged 13 years.

Jeremiah East came to Van Wert County with his father when he was 10 years old, and as the land was mostly covered with timber, he assisted in clearing it; consequently his education was such as could be obtained during the winter months. In 1880 he was married to Elizabeth Snodgrass, daughter of Samuel Snodgrass, of Ridge township, and they are the parents of one child—Blanchard Wilbert, who was born January 31, 1882, and lives at home. Mrs. East died March 26, 1886. Mr. East is a member and trustee of the United Brethren Church, of Bethel, Washington township.

ISAIAH MERICLE, a representative farmer and well-known and respected citizen of Jackson township, resides on a well-cultivated farm of 80 acres which he owns in section 1, and which he has occupied for the past nine years. He was born in Hocking County, Ohio, December 13, 1858, and is a son of George and Barbara (Beery) Mericle.

The parents of Mr. Mericle were born in Ohio, the grandparents on both sides of the family having been early settlers in Hocking County. Mr. Mericle has one sister, Sarah,

who is the wife of John E. Gillespie, a resident of Jackson township; a brother, Noah, resides at Grover Hill, and another sister, Margaret, wife of Jacob Slane, lives in Paulding County. In 1860 George Mericle, the father, removed with his family to Jackson township, where he lived until a few years before his death, which occurred at the village of Grover Hill, in May, 1901. His widow still resides there, she and her husband having retired from the farm shortly before his death. The deceased was deeply mourned by the entire community.

As an infant Isaiah Mericle came with his parents to Jackson township, and here he was reared and educated. All his business life has been concerned with agricultural pursuits, and he is considered one of the township's most excellent farmers, his land being carefully cultivated, well managed and productive of handsome returns.

On October 17, 1881, Mr. Mericle was married to Mary C. Gusler, who was born in Paulding County, Ohio, and is a daughter of George Gusler, an early settler of that county. The seven children born to this marriage are: Stella, George F., Warren B., Cleo, John H., Lewis and Carrie. In politics Mr. Mericle is a Republican, as was his father. The latter was a member of Mount Tabor United Brethren Church in Jackson township. Our subject belongs to the Church of Christ at Grover Hill, and fraternally is a member of the lodge of Odd Fellows at the same place.



CLARK ROEBUCK, whose death took place in November, 1903, was one of the most progressive farmers of Liberty township, and lived on a farm of 80 acres situated in section 27. He was born in Mercer County, Ohio, December

24, 1871, a son of Ruel and Catherine (Harb) Roebuck, his father being one of the oldest residents and most prominent farmers of the county named.

Clark Roebuck was the third of a family of seven children, was reared and educated in Mercer County, and always gave his attention to agricultural pursuits. On November 25, 1893, he was married to Irene Custer, a daughter of Milton and Sarah (Hoghe) Custer. Mrs. Roebuck's father was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, and was a son of Peter Custer, one of its pioneer farmers. Milton Custer died in 1888; his wife still resides in Liberty township.

After his marriage, Clark Roebuck rented a farm in Mercer County, where he lived until 1900, when he bought the tract of 80 acres now operated by his widow. Moving the old house from the farm, in the summer of 1903 he built the large frame residence which the family now occupy. Mr. and Mrs. Roebuck had three children, namely: Forrest, born August 13, 1894; Violet, born July 6, 1898; and Leona, born October 18, 1901, who died July 8, 1903.

Mr. Roebuck's death was the result of a most peculiar accident. While engaged in stretching a fence, one of the posts gave way, throwing him in such a manner as to break his neck. At the time of his decease, he was one of the leading members of the Mount Olive Christian Union Church: was also superintendent of its Sunday-school, and at one time ruling elder and financial elder of the church.

Mrs. Roebuck is still living on the farm which she is operating in a most successful manner. She has nine producing oil-wells on the land. Mrs. Roebuck is also an honored member of the Mount Olive Christian Union Church.



OLIVER KOOGLE



MRS. SARAH L. KOOGLE

OLIVER KOOGLE, one of the most representative farmers and dairymen of Liberty township, who owns 120 acres of fine land in section 14, was born in Ashland County, Ohio, November 27, 1846, and is a son of Daniel and Susan (Swoveland) Koogle.

Daniel Koogle was born in Frederick County, Maryland, and was a son of Jacob Koogle. The latter was a slave-owner in Maryland and truly an unusual one; for he never sold a slave, and when he decided to move into a free state he gave liberty to all his human chattles. This removal was made in 1819 and the family settled in Richland County, now the western part of Ashland County, Ohio, Daniel being at that time a lad of five years. He located with his father in the cabin formerly occupied by the Seymour family who had been massacred by the Indians—the first people brave enough to take up their resident in a place which had been the scene of so terrible a casualty. They lived there for one year and then purchased a farm of 160 acres located about one mile west of the Ashland County line, in Richland County. This farm is still held in the Koogle name and is owned and occupied by an uncle of our subject.

Daniel Koogle lived in Ashland and Richland counties from the time he was five years old until the year 1854. During the last eight years of his residence in Richland County he followed threshing, and owned the first grain separator ever used in the county named. He was married in Richland County and in 1854 came to Van Wert County and took up his home on a 160-acre tract of timberland which is still owned by his heirs, having paid \$800 for this property in 1852. Prior to settling here, he had made three trips to the county—twice on horseback and once on foot—and his first en-

tering of land had been 80 acres, which he sold when he bought the property in Liberty township.

Daniel Koogle's wife was formerly Susan Swoveland; they had three children, namely: Tobias, who lives at Findlay, Ohio; George who died aged five years; and Oliver, the subject of this sketch. Daniel Koogle died in Van Wert County, in June, 1894, but his venerable widow is still living, having passed her 89th birthday on February 3, 1906.

Oliver Koogle was eight years of age when his parents moved to Van Wert County and thus, for all practical purposes, may well claim to be a native of this section of the State. After completing his schooling, he assisted on the home farm until he took charge of his own property in Liberty township. He carries on general farming, making specialties of wheat and potato crops, and is largely concerned in the dairying business, breeding his own thorough-bred Guernsey cows and having a large bottled milk trade. Mr. Koogle is also the local agent for the Farmers' Mutual Aid Association, of Van Wert. Like his father, he is a member of the Odd Fellows, the former, prior to his death, having been associated with the fraternity for over 40 years.

Oliver Koogle was married (first) on November 30, 1871, to Sarah Ann Wise, of Van Wert County, who died September 26, 1873. He was married (second) to Sarah Elizabeth Le Blond, who was born November 6, 1856, at Celina, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Christopher and Charlotte (Cooper) Le Blond. The mother of Mrs. Koogle died when she was quite small, and she was reared by her grandmother, Mrs. Sarah Cooper. Her father, a carpenter by trade, made his home with his son-in-law, Oliver Koogle, and died in 1885. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Koogle were: Myrtie Ann,

born January 14, 1878, who married C. L. Shaffer, superintendent of the schools of Ohio City, and who died in May, 1904; Clyde Perry, born March 7, 1879, who married Ilda Morehouse and resides in Defiance County, Ohio, the father of one son—Franklin Le Blond; Ottis O., born September 4, 1880, who married Maud Small, is the father of one child (Cecil Elizabeth) and resides in Chicago, where he is the advertising manager for a large mail-order house; Charles Le Blond, born October 1, 1884, who married Eva Hirt; and Kathryn Miranda, born September 20, 1894. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Koogler accompany this sketch.



JAMES C. REED, a representative citizen of Van Wert County, located on his farm of 160 acres in section 36, Hoaglin township, early in 1863. His parents, Robert and Rebecca (Conner) Reed, were natives of Virginia, as was our subject who was born in Augusta County, August 4, 1824. In 1849 the family moved from Virginia to Delaware County, Ohio, where both parents died.

Mr. Reed was educated in the subscription schools of his native county, as a young man accompanying his parents to Delaware County, where he remained until his removal to Van Wert County in 1863. Here he secured a tract of 160 acres which by hard and persistent labor he cleared and placed under excellent cultivation. For many years the family occupied a hewed-log cabin, which gave place some years ago to the present frame dwelling. Mr. Reed is a capable and hard working farmer, and merits the success which has attended his efforts.

James C. Reed was married November 25, 1859, to Margaret C. Waldron, a daughter of

George Waldron and a native of Delaware County. Seven children blessed this union, viz.: Martha, wife of Alonzo Ireland, of Ridge township; Allie, widow of William Frye and a resident of Jackson township; George R., of Ridge township; James A., also of Jackson township; Lillie, wife of J. C. Bell, who lives in the State of Washington; Melburn A., of Hoaglin township; and Eva Ann, who died at the age of two years. Mrs. Reed was called to the home beyond on March 30, 1904, and her death was deeply deplored, not only in the home and circle of friends, but in the church of which she was so active a supporter. Both she and Mr. Reed were members of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, of Jackson township, Mr. Reed being a trustee in that organization for many years. He is a Republican in politics, and one of the oldest and most highly esteemed citizens of the northeastern section of the county.




ALLEN LEIST, who has been engaged in farming in Ridge township for more than 25 years, in 1893 moved to his present farm of 65 acres in section 10. He was born in Allen County, Ohio, December 7, 1842, and is a son of Elias and Maria (Baxter) Leist, who died there several years ago. The father was a native of Fairfield County, and the mother of Allen County, Ohio.

Allen Leist received such educational advantages as were accorded the boys of his district and times, attending the old log school-house, which afforded little luxury and where knowledge was gained only by hard study. He then commenced farm work and followed that occupation in Allen County until 1880, when he came to Van Wert County and for many years lived in the northeast corner of

Ridge township, where he was a very successful agriculturist. About 13 years later he purchased his present farm, which he has raised to a high state of fertility.

Mr. Leitz was married April 3, 1863, to Almira Ditto, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Richard W. Ditto, of West Virginia. Ten children blessed this union, namely: William A.; John F.; Marion A.; James W.; Hattie T. (Mrs. J. E. Long); Izilla (Mrs. Ernest Powell); Nelson; Ruth (Mrs. Frank Herninghuysen); Ethel (Mrs. Charles Berget); and Gideon M., deceased. Except Nelson, who lives in Florida, Henry County, the children are all residents of Van Wert County. In October, 1899, the family suffered an irreparable loss in the death of the wife and mother, whose life of unselfish devotion is a blessed and undying memory—not only to the family, but to her innumerable friends. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and her life guide was the gentle Nazarene. Mr. Leist is also a member of that church and is an active worker, being steward, trustee and class leader. In politics he is a Democrat.

EORGE LEWIS, a representative agriculturist whose farm is located in section 30, Pleasant township, Van Wert County, was born in Butler County, Ohio, November 29, 1842, and is a son of James E. and Nancy (Bone) Lewis. The father, who was a native of the State of New York, when about 8 years of age moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, which was his home for several years. He then settled in Butler County, married Nancy Bone, a native of the county named, and later moved to Clinton County, Ohio. There he lived until 1870, when he came to Van Wert County and located in York town-

ship, where he died in 1890, in the 78th year of his age. Four children survive him, viz.: George; Walter, of York township; Ford, of Celina, Ohio; and Anna, wife of William A. Ayers, of Mount Vernon, Indiana.

George Lewis was reared in Butler County where, on August 20, 1861, he enlisted in Company B, 35th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and was in the 14th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, under General Thomas. Mr. Lewis was made a corporal and took part in many of the fierce encounters and minor skirmishes of the war, among them being the battles at Millspring, Shiloh, Perryville, Mission Ridge, and Chickamauga, at the last named place receiving a wound in the left hand which for a time incapacitated him for service. Recovering, he was placed in the Second Battalion, Veteran Reserve Corps, and received an honorable discharge in 1864.

In the meantime Mr. Lewis' parents had taken up their residence in Clinton County, where he himself now located, engaging in farming there until 1870, when he came to Van Wert County and became similarly employed. That he is successful is no doubt due to the fact that he has not only been industrious and persevering, but also progressive in his methods, and does not deem it necessary to follow in the old ruts when his common sense tells him a new way might prove the better.

Mr. Lewis has been twice married, first, in Clinton County, in 1868, to Beulah Smith, by whom he has one daughter—Mrs. Joseph M. Warren, of Pleasant township. His second marriage was to Maria Devoe, who has borne him two children—Susan and Edwin M., both of whom live at home. Mr. Lewis is a member of W. C. Scott Post, No. 100, G. A. R., at Van Wert. In his public capacity he has served as justice of the peace for six years, a member of the School Board for several

years, and was at one time the Republican candidate for State Senator. His prominent identification with the agricultural element is evidenced by the fact that he is a member of Van Wert Grange, No. 81, Patrons of Husbandry; was formerly master of Pleasant Grange, No. 399; is a director of the Farmers' Mutual Aid Association of Van Wert County; was president of the Van Wert County Agricultural Society for eight years; was overseer of the Ohio State Grange two years; and was a member of the State Board of Agriculture for four years.

NATHANIEL PERHAMUS settled on his farm in section 34, Hoaglin township, in the spring of 1876 and is one of the best known agriculturists of Van Wert County. He was born in the neighboring county of Allen on February 28, 1845, and is a son of Daniel and Margaret (Bope) Perhamus, the former a native of New York and the latter of Pennsylvania.

When a lad of 12 years, Daniel Perhamus struck out for himself, coming to Defiance County, Ohio, where he worked for a number of years. Later he went to Indiana, but after a time returned to Ohio and settled in Allen County, where he was married and where his wife died. In the early '60's he moved to Van Wert County and located in Ridge township, where he died in 1872. He was twice married.

Nathaniel Perhamus enlisted in Allen County in April, 1863, in Company E, 151st Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., for the 100-day service. He took part in a two days' skirmish in Maryland and also fought in a number of battles in that State as well as in Pennsylvania and Virginia. His father in the meantime moved to Van Wert County, and Mr. Perhamus came here from the army. He remained in Ridge

township for a number of years before locating in Hoaglin township, where he purchased 80 acres of wooded land, which he has developed into his present highly cultivated farm.

Mr. Perhamus was married October 23, 1875, to Harriet Gardner, who was born in Delaware County, Ohio, February 25, 1846, and is a daughter of Reuben C. and Susan L. (Mirick) Gardner, both of New Jersey. John M. and Sears R. Gardner, of Van Wert County are brothers of Mrs. Perhamus. Four of the six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Perhamus are living, viz.: Margaret H., wife of William Lewis; John W., who married Alta Baser and resides on the farm; George W.; and Lottie—all of Hoaglin township.

Our subject and his wife are members of the Fairview United Brethren Church, of which he is trustee and in which they are active workers. He is a prominent member of W. C. Scott Post, No. 100, G. A. R., of Van Wert and in politics is a Republican.

JACOB SCHIAFFNER, who owns a farm of 220 acres in section 3, Hoaglin township, and is one of the prosperous and influential agriculturists of the county, was born February 12, 1856, in Bavaria, Germany, which was also the birthplace of his parents, Weighant and Barbara (Weidenbach) Schaffner. In 1872 with their family they took passage for America at Havre, France, reaching port in New York 14 days later, and at once came to Shelby County, Ohio, where they lived for a number of years. Later the parents removed to Alabama, where they resided a short time before locating in Hoaglin township, Van Wert County. Here they reside until their death, the mother passing away in June, 1895, and the father in February, 1897.

Jacob Schaffner lived in Shelby County about 14 years and even at that time was known as a successful farmer. In 1886 he came to Van Wert County and settled on the farm now occupied by him, but which then was a woodland tract. He now owns 220 acres, 120 of which comprise the homestead. In acquiring and improving his property he worked hard and practiced habits of strict economy, denying himself many necessities, and living in a log house until 1904, when he moved into his commodious, new residence where in a convenient, modern home, he will enjoy the fruits of his many years of industry.

Mr. Schaffner was married December 26, 1880, to Margaret Schaffer, who was born June 7, 1856, in Alsace—Lorraine, and is a daughter of John and Margaret (Ham) Schaffer. Her parents were also natives of Alsace, which was at that time a province of France, but which now belongs to the German Empire. The mother died there in 1876, after which, with her father and one brother, Margaret Schaffer emigrated to America. The family settled in Shelby County, Ohio, where Margaret met and married Mr. Schaffner. Seven children have blessed this union—Maggie, Emil M., Spohia M., John W., Weighant, Martha and Walter. They are members of St. Peter's Reformed Evangelical Church, at Van Wert, and are consistent Christians. In politics Mr. Schaffner is a Democrat.

REV. ENOCH F. GAMBLE, proprietor of one of the leading undertaking establishments of Van Wert, and a retired minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was born in Ridge township, Van Wert County, Ohio, December 9, 1861, and is a son of William Wilson and

Mary A. (Thomas) Gamble, both old settlers of the county, and a grandson of Robert Gamble.

Robert Gamble, who was a native of Ireland, came to America when 12 years old with his parents, who located in Carroll County, Ohio. He died in Van Wert County when about 100 years old.

William Wilson Gamble was born in Carroll County, Ohio, but removed to Van Wert County with his parents when quite young. To Mr. and Mrs. Gamble were born eight children, namely: Rosa (Zook); Etta (Dustman), lives in Ridge township; Ken; Bessie (Leathers), of York township; Bert, of York township; May (Hoover), of Hoaglin township; Isabelle, who died at the age of eight years, and Enoch F., of this sketch.

Enoch F. Gamble was reared and received his early education in Ridge township, later in 1883, attending the Ohio Normal University at Ada, where he took a three years' course. He then entered the school at Delaware, Ohio, but in two weeks was stricken with typhoid fever and was compelled to abandon his studies. After returning to Van Wert County, he entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church, his first charge being in the Dixon circuit, where he remained three years. He was then called to Convoy for two years, and then to Middlepoint for five years; his last pastorate, in Elida, lasted for three years, when he was compelled to give up the ministry on account of throat trouble. Mr. Gamble returned to Middlepoint and established an undertaking business, which he carried on successfully for about three years, until March, 1906, when he moved to Van Wert. He is now located at No. 115 South Washington street. While compelled to abandon the ministry, he still retains a license to preach and often officiates at funerals and weddings.

In 1891 Mr. Gamble was married to Anna McCoy, daughter of John and Ellen (Montgomery) McCoy, of Columbiana County, Ohio. They have three children, all girls: Juno, Ruth and Grace. He is a member of the Masonic lodge at Lima, the Odd Fellows lodge at Middlepoint, the Knights of Pythias and the Improved Order of Red Men.

GOODWIN & KISER. The livery and feed stable at Ohio City, conducted by the firm of Goodwin & Kiser, is acknowledged to be the leading establishment of its kind in the southern part of Van Wert County. The firm is composed of L. A. Goodwin and Simon Kiser.

L. A. Goodwin was born near Elgin in York township, Van Wert County, on January 1, 1868, and is a son of Abijah and Catharine Goodwin, the former of whom is still living and resides in Elgin; Mrs. Goodwin died in 1888. With the exception of three years which he spent in Allen County, Ohio, L. A. Goodwin has lived continuously in Van Wert County, where he has been engaged in farm work much of the time, but has always taken a great interest in horses. In 1899 he opened a livery barn in Spencerville, Ohio, which he conducted successfully for three years, when he sold the establishment and in 1902 moved to Ohio City, where he built the fine large brick barn which he at present occupies and which is metropolitan in every detail. The building is lighted by electricity, which is supplied by a dynamo operated in the barn, there being no electric light plant in Ohio City. In August, 1904, Mr. Goodwin formed his present partnership with Simon Kiser, and the business has since been conducted under the firm name of Goodwin & Kiser.

Simon Kiser is also a native of Van Wert County, being born in Liberty township. Both Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Kiser are members of the Improved Order of Red Men and Fraternal Order of Eagles.

JOSEPH D. SPEER, a prosperous farmer of Van Wert County, has lived for many years on his farm of 40 acres located in section 7, Hoaglin township. He was born in Hancock County, Ohio, August 1, 1854, and is a son of James and Anna (Davis) Speer, natives of Richland and Franklin counties, respectively, the father being a resident of Hancock County, Ohio, at the time of his death in 1866.

After the death of his father, Joseph D. Speer remained at home and assisted his mother by taking upon himself the management of the farm until his own marriage, when he operated on rented land. He remained in Hancock County until 1887, when he moved to Jay County, Indiana, and there cultivated rented land that year, in the fall of 1887 locating in Van Wert County and purchasing his present homestead.

On May 6, 1875, Joseph D. Speer was married to Nellie Crates, who was born in Hancock County, Ohio, and is a daughter of John and Mary (Baldwin) Crates. Her father is a native of Germany and her mother of Ohio, both families having taken up their residence in this State during the very early days when the Indians had possession. To Mr. and Mrs. Speer have been born eight children, namely: Cloyd J., who married Hattie Baxter, of Union township; Annie L., wife of Daniel Mohr, of Hoaglin township; James A., who is a soldier in the United States Army located in the Philippines; John, Edward O.,



HENRY POHLMAN

Mary C. and Lydia Irene, all living at home; and Dewey, deceased. The family are members of the Evangelical Association, being affiliated with the Grand Victory Church, in Hoaglin township, where Mr. Speer was formerly superintendent of the Sunday-school and delegate of the anti-saloon league held in Van Wert. Mrs. Speer is a prominent member and an earnest worker in the Ladies' Aid Society of the church and is also active in the Women's Relief Corps, of Scott; in fact, the family are prominently identified with all the social and religious life of their locality. Mr. Speer is a member of the I. O. O. F. lodge at Scott.

HENRY POHLMAN, a prosperous and highly esteemed agriculturist of this county, resides on a fine farm of 266 acres in section 14, Washington township, and owns an additional 334 acres in the same township. He is a native of Prussia, but an American in spirit by reason of long residence, education and sympathies. Born June 7, 1842, he was a child of about 18 months when his parents, Mathias and Gertrude Pohlman, emigrated to America and settled in Van Wert County. The elder Pohlman was an industrious, hard-working man, and soon secured employment on the Miami and Erie Canal. He died in 1886 and his wife in 1892, both being laid to rest in the East Side Catholic Cemetery of Delphos.

Henry Pohlman was educated in the Catholic school, and at an early age gave his attention to the subject of agriculture, in which few men are better versed. He also engaged extensively in the raising and shipping of cattle, making a specialty of the Hereford strain and meeting with such flattering success as enabled

him to lay up a competency which places him among the moneyed men of the county.

Mr. Pohlman's wife was formerly Elizabeth Koldsmith, a native of Germany and a daughter of Henry and Mary (Miller) Koldsmith. In 1897 her mother died in Prussia, but her father is still a resident of that country. Mr. and Mrs. Pohlman are the parents of 11 children and the grandparents of a like number. Their children are as follows: Mathias, who married Anna Geise and has three children—John, Sylvester and Lizza; Gertrude, wife of Frank Hotz, a farmer of Marion township, Allen County, Ohio, and the mother of four children—Henry, Lena, Leo and Rosa; Mary, who married Casper Kneble, of Washington township and has two children—Johanna and Leander; Henry C., Jr., who married Anna Linger, and is the father of one child—Alphonso; Clara, the wife of David Eickhold, of Putnam County, Ohio, and the mother of one child—Autor; Joseph, who married Nellie Wellman; Leo, Fred; Otto; Ella and George. Mr. Pohlman and his family are devout members of St. John's Catholic Church at Delphos, in which he has been councilman for the past 10 years; he himself belongs to St. Joseph's Society. A portrait of Mr. Pohlman accompanies this sketch.

JAMES J. McMILLEN, deceased, one of the prominent citizens, and formerly one of the leading farmers of Ridge township, died October 1, 1897. He was born December 23, 1827, in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and was a son of James W. and Mary (Leach) McMillen.

The great-grandfather of James J. McMillen came from Ireland to America and set-

tled in Pennsylvania, where William McMillen, the grandfather, was born. William McMillen married a daughter of Dennis McKnight, whose ancestral record shows that he too came from Ireland and served in the patriot army through the Revolutionary War, being at Bunker Hill and in subsequent battles. James W. McMillen, our subject's father, was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, in 1794, and married Mary Leach, a neighbor, who was born in 1796. Of their 10 children, James J. was the sixth in order of birth.

James J. McMillen was three years old when his parents started for Ohio with their children and household goods. The father entered 200 acres of government land in Knox County, where the family lived in a log cabin for some 12 years, passing through the usual hardships of pioneer settlers. The father then sold this land to advantage and removed to Allen County, where he died in March, 1880. Like many of the early fathers, he was a man of sturdy frame, great courage, deep religious convictions and of unimpeachable integrity. Naturally he assumed the prominent place in the community as he was fitted by nature to do so.

The boyhood of James J. McMillen was spent in going to school and in assisting on the home farm; but he was still a youth when he took charge of his first school, and after completing two terms he used his money in perfecting his education in Delaware University, at Delaware, Ohio, again returning to teaching and again using his earnings in securing advanced instruction for himself. About 1852 he entered into a mercantile business at Elida, Ohio, and later embarked also in the produce and grain business, to which he finally gave his entire attention. In 1858 he purchased 60 acres of land and engaged in farming and raising of fine stock. Subsequently

he disposed of this farm in Allen County, and in 1860 settled in Ridge township, Van Wert County, where he remained until his death. He was a man of great enterprise and, with the assistance of his sons, developed this land into a fine farm. Its improvements equal any in Van Wert County.

On September 7, 1854, Mr. McMillen was married to Harriet Gilliland, who is a daughter of James G. and Margaret (Lawson) Gilliland, a very prominent family of Van Wert County. The 10 children born to this union were: Joseph Warren; Alice, widow of M. D. Mann, of Van Wert; Phoebe, deceased; Alonzo B., of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Ida, wife of Thomas Pollock, of Middlepoint, Ohio; Charles S., of Woodburn, Indiana; Walter, deceased; Albert and Delbert (twins), residents of Van Wert County; and Hattie, wife of Edward Carlo, of Van Wert.

Politically Mr. McMillen was in accord with the Democratic party. He was prominent in Lima Lodge, No. 205, F. & A. M., and was a member of the Patrons of Husbandry. He was a man of enlightened views, was a great reader and fond of travel, which recreation he occasionally enjoyed with his wife. He was a man of noble impulses, of virtuous life, of kindness of heart and one who had Christian pity for all who were needy or distressed.



E. ZOLMAN, M. D., physician and surgeon at Ohio City, and one of the city's intellectual men and leading practitioners, was born in Fulton County, Indiana, March 8, 1872, a son of Sanford P. Zolman, who is a prominent farmer of Fulton County.

Dr. Zolman was reared on the home farm and attended the schools of Fulton County.

His inclinations did not tend in the direction of agriculture, and his ambitions to enter a profession were encouraged by study in the scientific department of the Northern Indiana Normal College, at Valparaiso. After completing his course there, he taught school during several winters, in the meantime preparing himself for entrance to the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati, from which he was graduated April 9, 1901. In that year he located at Ohio City, where he has established a very satisfactory private practice, being also medical examiner for the Prudential Life Insurance Company and for the endowment rank of the Knights of Pythias.

In 1898 Dr. Zolman was united in marriage with Addie Perschbacher, who was born in Fulton County, Indiana, and they have two children, both born in Ohio City—Maxine Mildred, March 20, 1904, and Naoma Pauline, July 7, 1905. Fraternally Dr. Zolman is a Mason, and politically a Republican.

JAMES BRADLEY, one of the representative agriculturists of Hoaglin township, whose well-cultivated farm of 89 acres is situated in section 32, was born March 25, 1838, in Richland County, Ohio, and is a son of William and Priscilla (Hoy) Bradley.

The father of Mr. Bradley was born in Pennsylvania and the mother in Richland County, Ohio. In 1820 William Bradley settled in Richland County, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits for many years subsequently dying at Mansfield.

James Bradley was reared on his father's farm until his majority, and was educated in the local schools. He has always given his main attention to agricultural pursuits, and has

been very successful in this line. He is now practically retired, one of his sons being the active operator of the farm, which is conceded to be one of the most valuable in the township. He settled here in the spring of 1882, after a residence of 17 years in Allen County.

In September, 1863, Mr. Bradley was married to Catherine Light, who was born in Richland County and was a daughter of Michael Light, one of the substantial farmers and early settlers of that county. Mrs. Bradley died on November 16, 1904. She was the devoted mother of these children: William M., of Hoaglin township, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work; Cora, deceased; Hattie, wife of Charles A. Doner, of Hoaglin township; Lydia, wife of Edward Andrews, of Paulding County, Ohio; George F.; and Mary C., wife of E. C. Cogswell of Van Wert, Ohio. George F. Bradley, the youngest son, who rents and operates his father's farm, was married to May Mosier, of Ridge township, Van Wert County, on February 20, 1905.

In politics Mr. Bradley is a staunch Republican. He has served as one of the trustees of Hoaglin township, and has always been considered one of the reliable citizens whose influence in the direction of education and morality has been very beneficial. He is one of the leading members and trustee of the Mount Tabor United Brethren Church.

HARVEY FOSTER, township trustee and representative farmer of Washington township, who resides on his well-improved farm of 44 acres, situated in section 18, was born February 14, 1867, on the farm now occupied by his mother and directly across the road from his present home, which was at one time a part of the old

home farm. He is the only son of Simon and Susan (Fisher) Foster. Simon Foster was born in Perry County, Ohio, December 2, 1828, and was a son of George Foster.

Rev. William Forster, as the name was once spelled, great-grandfather of J. Harvey Foster, was the first member of the Foster family to settle in America. When but 15 years of age he came to this country, and later was ordained a minister of the Lutheran Church, and preached for many years in Virginia and Ohio. He entered 2,000 acres of land in Perry County, Ohio, and was a very wealthy man at the time of his death. He left 160 acres of land in Perry County to each of his 12 children.

George Foster, grandfather of J. Harvey Foster, was born in 1779 in Pennsylvania, and came to Ohio with his parents when still a small boy. He was married in Perry County, Ohio, to Christina Bean, also a native of Pennsylvania, and had a family of 10 children, of whom Simon was the seventh.

Simon Foster, father of our subject, was born in Perry County, Ohio, December 2, 1828. He was one of the pioneer farmers of Van Wert County, where he located in 1848, after purchasing a farm in York and Ridge townships. He also bought 215 acres in Ottawa County. He was married in Lima, Ohio, June 12, 1856, to Susan Fisher, a native of Pennsylvania and a pioneer of Highland County, Ohio. Simon Foster inherited 215 acres of timberland in Ottawa County from his father. This he sold, and in 1853 bought at \$12 per acre the farm of 160 acres, now occupied by his widow, which was all timberland with the exception of 40 acres. Mr. and Mrs. Simon Foster had six children, of whom J. Harvey Foster was the only son, the five daughters being as follows: Alice (Veach), of Washington township; Ellen (Manship), of Middlepoint; Agnes (Morgan), of Scott,

Paulding County; Emma (Ridenour), of Van Wert.


J. Harvey Foster was reared and educated in Washington township, and on May 21, 1890, was married to Ella Downing, who was born in Delaware County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Eli and Martha (Miller) Downing, the former a native of Delaware County, Ohio, and a son of William Downing.

Politically Mr. Foster is a Democrat, and he was elected trustee of the western section of Washington township in 1902 by that party. He is responsible for many of the improvements made in this section of the township. He cut the road running north of Middlepoint and also made changes in an old road that formerly cut through many of the farms on an angle. Mr. and Mrs. Foster are members of the Lutheran Church of Middlepoint.

PETER F. REMAGEN, a prominent agriculturist residing on his farm in section 7, Hoaglin township, and a successful dealer in agricultural implements, wire fences, etc., was born in Allen County, Ohio, July 28, 1854, and there grew to manhood. His parents, Peter and Elizabeth (Bargs) Remagen, were natives of Germany, where they were married; but soon after came to America and settled in Allen County, Ohio, where they died.

Peter F. Remagen began farming as soon as his school days were ended, and, even before that time, was well versed in practical agriculture. In 1884 he purchased his present homestead of 60 acres, having since brought the land to a high state of cultivation. In connection with farming, he also handles all kinds of farm implements and fence wire, as he is enterprising and honorable, and has a good trade in the surrounding country.

On March 14, 1878, Peter F. Remagen was united in marriage with Annie B. Rumble, daughter of Henry Rumble of Van Wert. To this union two children were born—Ethel M, wife of Oris Rogers, and Henry G., who married Carrie Bogard. Both Mr. and Mrs. Remagen are members of the Evangelical Association are honorable and upright in every path of life. Mr. Remagen is a member of the tent of the Improved Order of Red Men at Scott. He is a Democrat, and was formerly assessor of Hoaglin township.

 JOSEPH RINNER, formerly one of Washington township's most prosperous farmers, but now living retired in Delphos, was born in Bayern, Germany, March 21, 1840, and is the son of Wolfgang and Barbara (Fleishman) Rinner. Wolfgang Rinner and wife were both natives of Germany and passed their lives in the fatherland, the father living to be 93 years of age and the mother 72.

Joseph Rinner was reared and educated in Germany, after which he engaged in farming until he was 21 years of age, when he entered the German Army and participated in the war of 1866. Being crippled in one hand, he was appointed a wagon driver, and while not able to take active part in any of the battles, was brought in close contact with them.

He decided to come to America and in 1868, with Walburga Klieber, who afterward became his wife, crossed the Atlantic and landed in New York. Having friends in Delphos, he immediately went to Van Wert County and was married within the year of his arrival. He first worked at ditching, but later was employed at the Union Stave factory. In 1869 he bought 60 acres of farm land in Wash-

ington township and, after building a log house upon it, occupied it as a homestead, later erecting a frame house as a residence. Mr. and Mrs. Rinner have these five children, all living: Theresa, wife of Nicholas Neittling of Portland, Oregon, and the mother of 10 children; Catherine, who married John Von Sossau of Fort Jennings, Putnam County, and has six children; Joseph, who married Nellie Cook and lives in Toledo, Ohio; George, who also resides in Toledo; and Anna, living at home.

In October, 1900, Mr. Rinner leased his farm to his son-in-law, Mr. Neittling, and removed to Delphos, where he bought his present home located on the corner of Second and State streets. In the fall of 1905 he sold his farm of 100 acres in Washington township and has since lived in retirement. He is an extensive real estate owner; at one time built a house on Fifth street, which later he sold, and also owns four other houses and lots in Delphos and one at Fort Jennings.

Joseph Rinner is one of the most highly esteemed men among the prominent German-Americans and Catholics of Delphos. He is a member of St. John's Catholic Church and is identified with St. Joseph's Society.



WALLACE N. WILLIAMS, a director of the Van Wert County Infirmary and a prosperous farmer of Liberty township, where he owns two fine farms in section 21, was born in Logan County, Ohio, near Bellfontaine, on November 15, 1856, and is a son of John Q. and Mary (Hoge) Williams.

John Q. Williams was born in 1828, in Logan County, Ohio, and was a son of Jesse Williams. His grandfather, the great-grandfather of our subject, originally came from

Wales and was one of the pioneer settlers of Logan County, later becoming one of the most prominent farmers of the county.

John Q. Williams, father of Wallace N., was born and raised in Rush Creek township, Logan County, Ohio, and was there married to Mary E. Hoge, daughter of Solomon G. Hoge, a well-known school teacher of the township. Mr. Williams bought his father's farm, which was settled by Jesse Williams, and was in the possession of the family for over 80 years. Originally the tract contained 86 acres. He added to this until at his death he owned 140 acres. The highest point in Ohio was said to be on his farm. The old geographies gave Hoge Hill, owned by an uncle of Wallace N. Williams, as the highest point, but later surveyors gave the land just back of the barn on the old Williams farm in Logan County that distinction. The water runs in three directions from that Hill. John Q. Williams died October 28, 1905, at the age of 77 years. His widow is still living. They reared a family of six children, namely: Emma (Musselman), of St. Paris, Champaign County, Ohio; Wallace N., our subject; Warnic L., who lives on the old home farm in Logan County; George W., of St. Paris; Jennie (Ansley), of Logan County; and John, a telegraph operator living in Bucyrus, Ohio.

Wallace N. Williams was reared and educated in Logan County. On October 10, 1877, he was married in Piqua, Miami County, Ohio, to Ella Jones, a daughter of William and Delilah (Coate) Jones. They have had six children: Forrest L., Pearl A., Gertrude, Grace, Harold E. and Madge (deceased in infancy). Forrest L. Williams married (first) Mollie Hoffman, a sister of Benjamin F. Hoffman, mayor of Ohio City; she died in 1901, after one year of married life. He next mar-

ried Olive Roller; they live in Ohio City, where Mr. Williams runs a restaurant; they have one child—Cloyd. Pearl A. Williams married Etta M. Purk and lives on part of his father's farm; they have no children. Gertrude Williams married Peter Putman, of Liberty township, and has one child—Stanley.

For four years after his marriage, Wallace N. Williams continued to live in Logan County. In 1883 he moved to Eastern Tennessee, where he bought a farm of 160 acres, which he cultivated for seven years. He then traded the land for 80 acres in Liberty township, Van Wert County, where he lived for 10 years until 1905, since which time his son Pearl has occupied this farm. In 1900 he bought a farm of 40 acres, which is about one-half mile east from his old farm, and to this farm he moved in 1905. Both farms are well developed and finely improved, each having a large frame house and good substantial barn and all other necessary farm buildings. Mr. Williams has on his farm the first oil-well drilled in the Ohio City field and the first oil gusher in Northwestern Ohio. At the present time six wells are in operation on the two farms.

Mr. Williams was for several years school director of Liberty township, and in the fall of 1905 was elected infirmary director by the Republican party to serve a term of three years. He is a member of the Methodist Church.

JOHAN WOLFE, M. D., a well-known physician and surgeon who since the spring of 1900 has been settled at Wetsel, was born in Jennings township, Van Wert County, Ohio, September 17, 1866, being a son of George and Mary J. (Williams) Wolfe. The father of Dr. Wolfe

was born in Licking County, Ohio, and the mother in Van Wert County, both being early settlers and valued residents of Jennings township, where the father died in 1896. The maternal grandfather settled in Jennings township in 1840.

John Wolf was reared in Jennings township and during boyhood and early youth attended its common schools. After his own school days were over, he engaged in teaching, and continued in the profession for seven years, mainly in his native township. In the meantime he had been preparing himself for a professional life, and in 1896 was graduated from the Ohio Medical University, at Columbus.

For several years Dr. Wolfe was engaged in practice at Burkettsville, Darke County, Ohio, but in 1900 he settled at Wetzel. Here he has built up a large and satisfactory practice, having become endeared to the community because of his skill and highly respected for his good citizenship. He is president of the Board of Education of Jackson township and is also a member of the Board of Health for Jackson and the east half of Hoaglin township. Dr. Wolfe keeps closely in touch with all the important movements within the profession and is a valued member of the Van Wert County Medical Society. Politically he is a Democrat, and, even outside his profession is one of the town's most intelligent, progressive and enterprising residents.

On June 30, 1892, Dr. Wolfe was married to Mary Jane Clark, a native of York township, this county, and a daughter of Henry and Frances (Slentz) Clark, residents of York township, where the father is a respected farmer. Dr. and Mrs. Wolfe have three children, as follows: Harold Grover, born June 12, 1893; Zoa Ruth, born October 10, 1895; and Clayton Clark, born October 2, 1905.

PETER HERTZ, who is a member of one of Van Wert County's earliest families, is a progressive citizen of Harrison township, where he has a fine farm of 160 acres situated in sections 3 and 10. He was born on the farm where he now resides, October 12, 1844, and is a son of Peter and Mary (Germann) Hertz, and a grandson of Peter and Anna (Klein) Hertz.

Peter Hertz, the grandfather, came to the United States from Germany in 1837, being accompanied by his wife and two children, Peter and Mary. The family located in Holmes County, Ohio, October 13, 1837, and a month or so later came to Van Wert County. Here our subject's grandfather entered 160 acres of land in Harrison township on August 28, 1838. He erected a log cabin and began clearing his new property, which he lived to enjoy for only one short year, his death occurring in August, 1839, aged 69 years. His widow died aged 71 years.

Peter Hertz, father of our subject, was born in Becher, Coburg, Germany, January 31, 1820, and was about 17 years old when he accompanied his parents to the United States. Owing to the early death of his father, the task of clearing the home farm in Harrison township devolved largely upon him. He was an energetic and progressive man, and assisted materially in effecting the transformation of this forest country into a rich farming community, with roads bounding every section, to take the place of paths through the timber. He cleared up the original quarter-section, and added to it until he had 300 acres. He assisted in the establishment of public schools. At the time of his death, January 8, 1897, he was the oldest resident of Harrison township, and had a fund of interesting reminiscences of pioneer life, when the nearest neighbor was six miles

distant and Lima was the market. On January 17, 1840, he married Mary M. Germann, a daughter of Heifry and Anna (Reidenbach) Germann, natives of Hesse-Homburg, Germany, who came to America three years prior to the coming of the Hertz family. Mr. Germann finally made a good farm of 160 acres in Harrison township, and died at the age of 70 years. He was steward of the local Lutheran Church. Five children were born to Peter Hertz and wife: Annie E. wife of Philip Germann, of Wilshire township; Mary wife of Henry Germann, Jr., of Harrison township; Margaret, widow of John Reidenbach, of Harrison township; Jacob, who died at the age of 16 years; and Peter, the subject of this sketch. Peter Hertz was a member of the Evangelical Church and Mrs. Hertz was a member of the Lutheran Church.

Peter Hertz, the subject of this sketch, attended school in the home district and has always lived on the home place, excepting a two years' residence at Van Wert. On May 1, 1873, he married Mary E. Scaer, who was born in Germany, and was a year old when brought to this country by her parents, Philip and Christina (Reidenbach) Scaer. To Mr. and Mrs. Hertz have been born seven children: Jacob, who attended St. John's Lutheran College at Winfield, Kansas, and then entered the employ of the International Harvester Company, which he represented in South America for a time and which he is now representing in Germany, having his headquarters in Berlin; Otto, employed in Baxter's hardware store in Convoy, who married Elhora Ehrman; Anna, who married Albert E. Etzler, and lives with our subject; Karl, who lives at home; Theodore, who is attending college at Fort Wayne; and John P. and Arthur W., who live at home.

Politically, Mr. Hertz is a Democrat. He

is a member of the Lutheran Church and was for a time a deacon. He served as treasurer of Van Wert County in 1893-94, was township treasurer for seven years and clerk for four years.

JOHAN SMALLEY, a well-known resident of Liberty township, who carries on general agricultural operations on his farm of 100 acres situated in section 3, was born in Ashland County, Ohio, June 12, 1845, and is the son of Abraham and Elizabeth (Dwyer) Smalley. His father was born in Jefferson County, Ohio, being a son of Richard Smalley, who was a native of New England, of English descent. His mother was of Irish ancestry, the maternal grandfather being a native of Ireland.

In 1848, when three years of age, John Smalley moved with his parents to Wyandot County, Ohio, where his father bought a farm of 160 acres and where the boy was reared and educated.

On September 20, 1866, our subject was married in Hancock County to Lucetta Kiehl, a daughter of Eli Kiehl, a well-known farmer of that county. Mr. and Mrs. Smalley became the parents of three children: Ida, William and Elmer J. Ida Smalley married William Willimen and lived in Indiana, where her husband died in 1895. She herself passed away eight years later, leaving three children: Bessie, who married C. I. Davis, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and is the mother of one daughter—Maxine Mildred; Earl and Clarence. William Smalley married Ida Krugh, lives in Liberty township and has five children—Myrtle, Lucie, Camilla, Ruth and John Joseph. Elmer J. Smalley married Effie Stump and was living on a 160-acre farm in Oklahoma, when his wife died, in April, 1904, leaving two children.

—Edna and Carl,—one child, Lewis, having died in infancy. While still owning his farm in Oklahoma, Elmer J. Smalley with his children lives with his parents on the home place.

John Smalley continued to live in Wyandot County for 15 years after his marriage, in 1881 removing to Van Wert County, where he bought his present farm of 100 acres. He has made many substantial improvements on the place, and in 1898 built a large frame house. It is his intention to build or remodel his barn in the summer of 1906. He was for many years a member of the School Board and served two terms as township trustee of the township. He is also a member and trustee of the Evangelical Church.

PERRY KOHN, president of the board of trustees of Jackson township and a highly honored citizen of Van Wert County, was born in Pleasant township, September 20, 1873, his parents being Harvey and Sarah M. (Smith) Kohn. Harvey Kohn was a native of Franklin County, Ohio, and it was there his father died when the son was quite young. Soon afterward his mother, with her children, moved to Paulding County, and located in Latty township. There Harvey Kohn reached adult years and then came to Van Wert County and married Sarah M. Smith, who survives him as an esteemed resident of Grover Hill, Paulding County. Mrs. Harvey Kohn was born in the State of Indiana a little more than 60 years ago. After their marriage the husband operated a rented farm in Pleasant township until the fall of 1873, when he purchased the tract now occupied by our subject in section 4, Jackson township, taking possession of the property in October of that year. Here he resided until

his death on October 21, 1902. The deceased was a Democrat, and a man whose opinions on all subjects were based upon his honest convictions. A member of the Elm Grove Methodist Episcopal Church, he was consistent in all things, upright in his dealings, and a valued member of the community in which he lived, so industriously and honorably. Besides his widow, he is survived by two children—Etta M., wife of E. W. McGinnis; and Perry.

After an attendance at the schools of sub-district No. 1, Perry Kohn became a student of what at that time was the Middlepoint Normal School. Later, for a short time, he became a partner of W. M. McGinnis in the grain business at Middlepoint, but eventually turned his attention to agriculture, to which he has devoted the greater part of his life. Mr. Kohn was married April 22, 1897, to Rhoda Longworth, a daughter of B. W. Longworth, who is a prominent citizen of Paulding County. Two children—Harry B. and Florence M.—have added the sunshine of their presence to the happy family circle. In politics Mr. Kohn is a Democrat, and is at present serving as trustee of Jackson township, being president of the board. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. lodge at Grover Hill. The confidence and respect he enjoys are but just tributes to his life of useful service.

RICHARD H. AINSWORTH, whose valuable farm of 40 acres is situated in section 32, Willshire township, was born in this township, January 30, 1856, and is a son of Joseph and Mary (Beadle) Ainsworth.

The parents of Mr. Ainsworth are both deceased, the father having been a native of Pennsylvania, and the mother, of Ohio. Their

children were: George, who served throughout the Civil war and was imprisoned nine months and 17 days at Andersonville, dying from the effects of his army hardships; Thomas, who enlisted at the age of 17 years, in the last year of the Civil war; James L., of Fort Wayne; Richard H., of this sketch; William, of Fort Wayne; John, of Van Wert County; and Amos, deceased.

Richard H. Ainsworth has always resided in his native township, where he was educated in the public schools. He remained with his parents until their decease, the mother passing away in 1875, and the father, in 1877. For the succeeding 12 years he worked by the month and during all that period had but three employers. After his marriage in 1880 he settled on his present place, which he has vastly improved, and, in addition to operating it, farms an adjoining 40 acres for his sister-in-law. Mr. Ainsworth also takes much interest in his fine orchard, which is in a very flourishing condition.

On December 23, 1880, Richard H. Ainsworth married Mary Elizabeth Dudgeon, who was born in Delaware County, Ohio, May 15, 1858, and who came here with her parents in 1865. She is a daughter of Isaac and Caroline (Ulery) Dudgeon, who were born and married in Knox County, Ohio. Both of her parents died on the farm, that is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ainsworth, the father at the age of 60 years, and the mother, aged 70 years. Mr. Dudgeon owned 80 acres here and also 120 acres in Mercer County. Had his health been that of ordinary men he would have left a much larger fortune than he did, but from the age of 30 years he was delicate; notwithstanding this, he was one of the township's substantial men. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Dudgeon were: Idora, widow of Jacob Tickle, of Mercer County; Douglass, of

Indiana; Mary E. (Mrs. Ainsworth); Laura (Springer), who resides on the 40-acre farm which Mr. Ainsworth operates with his own land; and Frank, of Mercer County.

Mr. and Mrs. Ainsworth have twin daughters—Hettie May and Herma June, bright little maidens who were born July 30, 1893. In his political views Mr. Ainsworth is a Republican.

DAVID S. CARPENTER, a retired farmer and well-known citizen of Delphos, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and is a son of James and Susan (Ream) Carpenter.

James Carpenter, the father, was a native of Virginia, and came to Fairfield County after the death of his parents, which occurred when he was three years old. He was married in Fairfield County, where his wife was born and raised, and became the father of 13 children—three boys and 10 girls—all of the children are living except two, one daughter dying at the age of six, and the oldest child, Mrs. Sarah Klinger, passing away December 24, 1905. In 1853 Mr. Carpenter and his family moved from Fairfield County to Van Wert County, where he purchased a farm of 40 acres in section 10 and 11, Washington township. He gradually added to this tract until at the time of his death, in 1903, he owned 120 acres. At one time he was the proprietor of 160 acres, but sold 40 acres to his son David. Mrs. Carpenter died in 1890, her husband surviving her until the 14th of August, 1902.

David S. Carpenter was reared and received his education in Washington township and followed the life of an agriculturist until 1902, when he sold his farm to Korte & Co., afterward retiring from active life and making his residence in the town of Delphos. He



MR. AND MRS. BENJAMIN JOHNSON

married in May, 1873, to Serepta Alspach, of Washington township, and to them were born four children, namely: Charles, who married Dessie Styverson, his wife dying in 1903 and leaving four children; Eva, who married Korto Crax, lives on the old homestead and has five children; Perry, who is married and lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Dollie, who married Walter Huysman, and has one child. Mr. Carpenter is a member and trustee of the United Brethren Church, at Delphos.

BENJAMIN JOHNSON, who for the past 40 years has resided on his present farm of 160 acres, in section 11, Willshire township, this county, owns one of the most thoroughly improved and finely cultivated estates of the locality. He was born in Pennsylvania, near the border of West Virginia, on June 1, 1839, and is a son of Elias and Jemima (Emmett) Johnson.

Elias Johnson, the father, was born in West Virginia in 1810, and died June 11, 1861, his entire life having been devoted to agricultural pursuits. In 1848 he came to Willshire township, Van Wert County, Ohio, and entered 640 acres of land in sections 11 and 12, paying therefor \$1.25 per acre. At his death his estate was still intact, with the exception of 100 acres which he had given his son Benjamin. In his earlier days Mr. Johnson was a Democrat, but later in life became a Republican. He was a man of quiet, domestic tastes, and was most highly respected by those who knew him best. Elias Johnson's wife was Jemima Emmett, who was born in West Virginia and died in 1859, aged 40 years, the mother of the following children: Benjamin, of this sketch; Wilson and Jacob, both deceased; Armitta; Mary Ann; Elizabeth, deceased; Smith, of Paulding

County; George, of Liberty township, and three children who died in infancy. Wilson Johnson, the second born of the family, enlisted for service in the Civil War—first, for three months, and one year later, reenlisting under Capt. T. S. Gilliland and serving for three years. After the war he returned home and finally died in Willshire.

Benjamin Johnson was reared to the age of nine years in Brooke County, West Virginia. His parents then started for Willshire township, Van Wert County, the trip to Cincinnati being made by boat and that to St. Mary by canal. The mother and other children, with the household goods, were stowed away in the great canvas-covered conveyance coming from St. Marys; Benjamin still remembers how proud he was to make the journey on horseback with his father. The family settled near the present farm, and Benjamin Johnson has spent all his subsequent years in this township, his homestead of 160 acres being all that remains in the family of his father's former large body of entered land. When he took up his residence here, a small clearing had been made and a cabin built; now a handsome family residence stands in place of the latter, and 100 acres of the farm are under a fine state of cultivation.

On June 24, 1860, Benjamin Johnson was united in marriage with Delila Morehead, who was born in Liberty township and died September 24, 1904, aged 63 years and 24 days. The deceased lady was the estimable daughter of Vinton and Phoebe (Heller) Morehead, pioneers who had preceded the Johnson family in Willshire township. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson had seven children born to them:—Wilson Wallace; Rose Alpha May, deceased; Annie, wife of Fred Handwerk, of Willshire township; Melvin A., who lives at home; Chas. Alice, wife of David T. Johnson, of Fort

Wayne, Indiana; Benjamin F., deceased; and a child who died when an infant.

Mr. Johnson is a pronounced Republican, and is one of the leading members of the United Brethren Church of Liberty township, being one of its trustees and long serving as a class leader and steward. As one of the upright and useful members of his community, Mr. Johnson is worthily grouped as among the substantial representatives of the honorable pioneer families of Van Wert County. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson accompany this sketch.

JOHAN W. BOWERSOCK. Among the many splendid farms in Van Wert County, the 200-acre tract located in section 17, Jackson township, owned and occupied by John W. Bowersock, is especially to be noted. Mr. Bowersock is a practical agriculturist, and during the two decades in which he has been engaged in the tillage of this land has brought it to a splendid state of productiveness. He was born in Auglaize County, Ohio, May 29, 1857, and is a son of James and Isabel (Sunderland) Bowersock, both of whom were natives of Ohio. The father lost his life in the Civil war, and soon afterward the mother and children removed to Allen County.

Being thrown upon his own resources at an early age, John W. Bowersock became self-reliant and was not slow to grasp every opportunity for advancement. When 13 years old he began independent life as a farm hand, receiving for his services during the summer months his board and \$8 per month in money. As his strength and usefulness increased, so did the wages he received until his monthly pay was \$21 with board. Later he engaged in farming for himself, con-

tinuing in Allen County until 1885, when he brought his family to Van Wert County and took possession of the farm upon which he still lives.

John W. Bowersock was married June 20, 1879, to Jennie Adams who was born in Auglaize County, Ohio, on January 12, 1860. Her parents were Emanuel and Lydia (Hoffman) Adams, the former a native of England, and the latter, of Pennsylvania. To Mr. and Mrs. Bowersock the following children have been born, namely: Fara, wife of Samuel Anderson; James L.; Emanuel; Goldie H., deceased; Isabel; John; Clifton; Leta and Columbus. Mr. Bowersock and his estimable wife are members of the Christian Union Church, of which he was formerly trustee. He is now serving as superintendent of the Sunday-school and has met with great success in his efforts to increase its membership and influence.

Mr. Bowersock is a Republican and takes an intelligent interest in political questions. He has served as school director of sub-district No. 4, Jackson township, and has always supported progressive measures designed for the general welfare. Realizing the great advantage of good thoroughfares to the farmer, Mr. Bowersock was among the first to advocate pike roads and opened a stonequarry to provide material for their construction.

EDWARD EDWARDS, M. D., a popular and successful practitioner of Delphos, was born at Tynybwlech Llanyfyllin, Montgomeryshire, North Wales, March 5, 1859. As far back as can be traced, the Edwards have been engaged in agriculture in Wales and the present homestead there was taken possession of over 80

years ago by the parents of our subject, Lewis and Margaret (Morris) Edwards. Both parents died in that country, the father in November, 1889, and the mother in August, 1897. They reared their entire family of nine children, all but three of whom reside in Montgomeryshire. The record follows: Lewis, who resides near the homestead in Montgomeryshire; John, who is also a farmer in Montgomeryshire; Ann, who married Allen Price and resides on a farm south of Van Wert, in York township; Thomas, who occupies the old home in Montgomeryshire; Mary, widow of Thomas Ellis, who reside in Montgomeryshire; Catherine, who makes her home with her sisters; Humphrey, who resides at Gomer, Allen County, and is now on a visit to Wales; Margaret, who married Thomas Ellis and resides in Montgomeryshire; and Edward, who is the third child in the family.

Edward Edwards landed in New York on March 21, 1878, and at once came to Ohio, reaching Lima seven days later. Going to Gomer, he secured work on a farm and continued this work until he had sufficient means to take him through the veterinary college at Ontario, Canada.

Entering this college in the fall of 1886, he was graduated from it in March, 1888, and practiced until 1892. Having decided to enter the regular medical profession, he entered Jefferson Medical College at Philadelphia in 1892 and graduated two years later. He then went to Germany and took a course in the University of Berlin, following this with four months practice in Guy's Hospital, London, England, where he had the advantage of working with the most skilled physicians of the world. Being now well prepared for his chosen work, Dr. Edwards returned to America, and opened an office in Venedocia, Van Wert County, where he remained some 18

months. In August, 1897, he located in Delphos, where he has since been in active practice.

On November 10, 1898, Dr. Edwards was married to Emma J. Gilliland, daughter of John Gilliland, a well-known and highly respected resident of the county, living two and one-half miles south of Van Wert. During the past summer, the Doctor and his wife spent four months in Europe, making a pleasant visit at the old home in Wales. Dr. Edwards took advantage of this opportunity to take six weeks' work in the leading hospitals of London.



WELLINGTON NAPOLEON ROBINSON, one of the most progressive young farmers of Liberty township, owner of 200 acres of rich farm land situated in section 9, was born in the township named and is a son of Edward W. and Celesta (Dull) Robinson.

Edward W. Robinson, the father, was a son of William Robinson, was born January 22, 1837 in Muskingum County, Ohio, and when four years old the family moved to Knox County, Ohio. In 1856 he migrated from Knox County and settled on a farm of 80 acres in Van Wert County, to which he added at various times until at the date of his death, on May 5, 1882, he owned 200 acres of land. He was married December 25, 1860, to Celesta Dull, a daughter of Lenhart Dull—a full account of whom will be found in the sketch of James Monroe Dull in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Robinson had six children, namely: Wellington Napoleon, the subject of this sketch; Alice S., born December 6, 1863, who died January 17, 1881; Ida May, born November 5, 1865, and died September 7, 1902, who married (first) John Adams, by whom she had one child—Florence, now the

wife of C. C. Gephart—and (second) Lewis Malin, on December 26, 1893, by whom she had four children—Rex, Ethel, Mildred and Ralph (who died September 3, 1902; Oscar L., born November 10, 1867, who married Jennie Flager, December 9, 1895, and died May 30, 1901; Patrick, born April 28, 1873, who lives at home; and Claude D., who was born September 11, 1878, and died April 15, 1879. Mrs. Celesta Dull Robinson was born December 2, 1843, in Willshire township and is still living on 40 acres of the old homestead, which she has retained in her own name.

Wellington N. Robinson has spent his entire life in his native township and is one of its leading residents. He has served as trustee and has always worked for the advancement of his home community. Fraternally Mr. Robinson is a member of the Knights of Pythias.



SCHUYLER SIMPSON TUTTLE, M. D., one of the youngest class of physicians, who is fast advancing to the front as one of the most successful practitioners of Van Wert, was born in this city September 1, 1869. He is a son of M. H. and Mary J. (Murphy) Tuttle, honored residents of Van Wert. During his boyhood Schuyler S. Tuttle attended the district schools and then entered Middlepoint Academy, from which he graduated with the class of 1885. He entered upon the actual duties of life as a bookkeeper for Thaddeus S. Gilliland, of Van Wert, and later was a teacher in the schools of Union township, being thus engaged for a couple of terms before he commenced the study of medicine in the office of Dr. E. L. Wilkinson, of Van Wert. Two years were spent in hard study, the first under the able preceptorship of Dr. Wilkinson, and the last, in his own home. Being appointed to a posi-

tion on the staff of the Newburg Insane Asylum, Cleveland, he spent one year in that institution and thence went to Chicago, where he entered Rush Medical College, graduating March 28, 1893.

Dr. Tuttle determined to practice his profession in his native town, among his friends, although he realized that a young physician has usually a better chance to establish himself among strangers. But having perfect confidence in his ability to succeed in the home field, he opened his office in Van Wert, and the success attending his ministrations soon won him the confidence of the public and placed him among the leading physicians of the community.

On October 4, 1893, Dr. Schuyler S. Tuttle was married to Mary C. Clay, who was born in Mendon, Ohio, October 24, 1872, and is a daughter of John Clay. There are two children of this union—Miles Henderson, born November 16, 1894, and Eugenia Elizabeth, November 18, 1904. Mrs. Tuttle is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which she is a zealous worker, and their hospitable home, on West Main street, is the prolific source of many a charitable act, as well as a magnet which makes it a social center. The Doctor is prominently connected with the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association and the Van Wert County Medical Society. He is also a member of Van Wert Lodge, No. 218, F. & A. M., and the Knights of Pythias. In politics he affiliates with the Republicans.



WILLIAM M. BRADLEY, one of the prominent citizens and prosperous agriculturists of Hoaglin township, who owns a valuable farm of 50 acres in section 31, was born in Richland County, Ohio, December 27, 1863, and is a

son of James Bradley, the well-known citizen of the above mentioned township, a sketch of whom appears in another part of this work.

Our subject was yet a child when his parents removed from Richland to Allen County, Ohio, and there he remained until his father removed to Van Wert County, in 1882. His mental training was secured in Allen County, while his practical education made him a first-class farmer; he has devoted his main attention throughout life to the tilling of the soil and the raising of live stock. His land is well adapted to agriculture and his thorough methods have brought about its present high state of cultivation.

On April 1, 1895, William M. Bradley was married to Fannie Stevens, who was born in Madison County, Kentucky, and is a daughter of Rufus M. and Martha J. (Todd) Stevens—the former of whom was born in Madison County, Kentucky, and the latter in the same neighborhood. Mrs. Stephens died many years since, but her husband has been a resident of Hoaglin township since July, 1905.

Politically Mr. Bradley is affiliated with the Republican party. He is one of the enterprising, intelligent and progressive agriculturists of Hoaglin township, and enjoys in large measure the esteem and confidence of all his neighbors.




E. BRUNDAGE, M. D., the genial and efficient health officer of Delphos, and a leading physician of this locality, was born in Van Wert County, September 16, 1863. He is a son of Dr. Israel and Emily J. (Duckworth) Brundage, of Delphos, who have been actively identified with the history of Van Wert County during almost half a century of residence here.

Dr. Israel Brundage was born in Delaware County, Ohio, on September 16, 1827, and was a son of Caleb and Catherine (Bensley) Brundage, the former from New York and the latter from New Jersey. Both had been residents of Delaware County since early youth. After acquiring the rudiments of his education in the schools of his native county, Israel Brundage entered the college at Gambier, Ohio, from which he graduated as a doctor of medicine. He began the practice of his profession in his home county, where he continued until 1863, when he located in Van Wert County, about two miles west of Delphos, in Washington township. He was married December 30, 1854, to Emily J. Duckworth, of Delaware County. Of the family of seven children born them, all are now living, namely; Mary, who married Sebastian Alsbaugh of Union township; Charles, who married Emily Tongs and resides in Delphos; Henry and Henrietta (twins), the former of whom married Mary Emsoph, and the latter S. C. Hill, of Licking County, Ohio; N. E., of this sketch; and Dora and Nora (twins), the former of whom married H. A. Miller and the latter B. A. Rolson. The venerable Doctor and his estimable wife have made many warm friends among all classes, and it is amid the most congenial surroundings that they are spending the declining days of useful, well-rounded lives.

N. E. Brundage early decided to enter the profession which was so ably represented by his father. After leaving the public schools, he entered the Fort Wayne Medical College, in which his brother Henry was also a student, and was graduated in the class of 1892. He at once began practicing in Delphos, where he has since been located and has built up a large and lucrative practice. In 1900 he was appointed health officer of the city, and is still serving in that capacity. Dr. N. E. Brundage

was married in 1890 to Luella Cloud, and their home is the center of much pleasant hospitality.

RANCIS T. GILLILAND, one of Van Wert's leading business men, a member of the firm of Gilliland & Gilliland; implement dealers, was born at Van Wert, August 31, 1841, and is a son of Robert and Mary (Hill) Gilliland.

Robert Gilliland was one of the leading men of Van Wert County for a number of years, a brilliant lawyer and a prominent citizen. He was born in Maryland and came to Ohio prior to his marriage, accompanying his mother. He died at Van Wert in 1853, aged but 41 years. After admission to the bar he was associated with Judge Phelps, a connection which continued almost through life. He was very active in Democratic politics, was clerk of the county, county commissioner and county treasurer. He was appointed by the Governor as a member of the committee which had the building of the State Insane Asylum at Cleveland in charge, and was shown many other tokens of public confidence. He dealt largely in real estate, buying and selling great tracts of land, mainly in Van Wert County. He would have been a man of vast fortune had he not given way to generous impulses, it being said that no person in need ever applied to him without ready relief, and his purse was always open to assist any cause for the general welfare. He had acquaintances all over the State, and, when he was laid low with typhoid fever, friends came long distances to offer help and to express their sympathy. He was a charter member of the Masonic body at Van Wert and was an active member until his death.

Robert Gilliland was married (first) to Mary Hill, who was born in Ross County,

Ohio. She died in 1846, when our subject was five years old, leaving two children, Francis T. and William H. The latter volunteered at LaFayette, Indiana, in the beginning of the Civil war, and served three years when he was discharged for disability. At a later date he enlisted in the regular army as a member of the Seventh U. S. Cavalry, and after serving five years was lost sight of by his family. The father married (second) Henrietta Marsh, and they had two children—Lenox O., of Indiana, and Kate, who died aged four years.

When our subject was 13 years old he went to live with an uncle, Gordon Gilliland, a farmer in Ridge township, with whom he remained about a year, and then started out for himself. Until he reached the age of 19 years he worked around for various people and at numerous employments, keeping on the lookout for a permanent location and a settled business. Of his father's vast estate little was realized by his family when everything had been settled up, and Mr. Gilliland is practically a self-made man. When less than 20 years of age he went to Bureau County, Illinois, where he remained for three years; from there he came back to Van Wert to enlist with old friends for service in the Civil war. He entered Company B, 192nd Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., under Capt. J. W. Patrick, of Lima. The command was sent to the Shenandoah Valley, West Virginia, but after eight months service the war closed, and this company was never called on to take part in any serious engagement with the enemy. He keeps up his connection with W. C. Scott Post, No. 100, G. A. R., at Van Wert.

After his return from the army, Mr. Gilliland bought a farm of 80 acres in section 28, Ridge township. At that time it was entirely unimproved, but Mr. Gilliland has developed here a fine grain and stock farm, making improvements which have converted it into a com-



RESIDENCE AND BARN OF E. C. STEMEN & SONS

fortable place of residence. In addition to his farming interests, Mr. Gilliland has been for the past three years in partnership with E. B. Gilliland, in an implement business at Van Wert, under the firm name of Gilliland & Gilliland.

Mr. Gilliland was married (first) in 1866 to Mary E. Tombaugh, who was born in Stark County, Ohio, and came to Van Wert with her parents, Isaac and Mary Tombaugh. She died in 1880, leaving four children, viz: Beatrice M., wife of F. H. Gipe, of Defiance County, Ohio; Robert C.; Nellie K., wife of Lewis Schinke, of Stark County; and Inez, of Cleveland. He was married (second) to Adeline DeCoursey, a native of Allen County, and a daughter of Abraham and Sarah A. DeCoursey. Mr. and Mrs. Gilliland have three children—Francis N., Ruth and Alma.

In politics Mr. Gilliland has always been an active Democrat. He has repeatedly served in responsible offices, has been township assessor and from 1878 to 1881 he served as county commissioner.

EZRA C. STEMEN, one of the representative agriculturists of Jackson township, who resides on his home farm of 174 acres in section 31—the estate being known as “Walnut Grove Farm”—was born in Allen County, Ohio, July 31, 1840, and is a son of Christian and Margaret (Moyer) Stemen. The father of Mr. Stemen was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, and the mother in Pennsylvania. They were early settlers of Sugar Creek township, Allen County, Ohio.

Ezra C. Stemen was reared to manhood in Allen County, his boyhood being passed amid pioneer surroundings. His father had entered land from the government in Sugar Creek township and he assisted in its development.

His schooling was obtained in the primitive establishments of the township, which, however, turned out men and women fitted to do well their parts in the various fields to which they were called in after life.

On November 14, 1867, Ezra C. Stemen was united in marriage with Rachel C. Shoemaker, born January 12, 1849, in Allen County, Ohio, a daughter of Charles and Rebecca Shoemaker, deceased. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Stemen, viz: John C. and Charles A., both of Jackson township; and Neri B. and David G., both deceased. After his marriage Mr. Stemen located in Sugar Creek township, Allen County, where he engaged in farming until 1874, when he removed to Van Wert County and settled on his present farm in Jackson township. At that time the entire land was heavily timbered, no cutting having yet been done upon it; it has since continued to be his homestead, with the exception of a few years spent in Allen County. Mr. Stemen was one of the pioneers here. When his eldest son attained manhood, he received him into partnership, the firm of E. C. Stemen & Son being organized; in 1905 Charles A. was admitted into the firm, which became E. C. Stemen & Sons. The firm own 257 acres in Jackson township, their business being the buying and shipping of stock and the breeding of pure Duroc-Jersey swine.

Mr. Stemen is a charter member of Washington Grange, No. 1,327, P. of H., Jackson township and has always taken an active interest in its affairs. Politically he is a Democrat. In his sons and partners, Mr. Stemen has able assistants. Views of the Stemen residence and barn accompany this sketch.

John C. Stemen, the eldest son of our subject, was born May 6, 1870, in Allen County, Ohio, and on December 25, 1890, was married to Mary J. Duvall, a native of Warren County,

Ohio, and a daughter of Nimrod J. Duvall, now of Jackson township, Van Wert County. They are the parents of these children: Alvin P., Albert B., Lola F., Ezra N. and Lehr O. John C. Stemen is a Democrat, a member of the School Board of Jackson township, and belongs to the Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias at Middlepoint, being also master of Washington Grange, No. 1327, P. of H.



M. AYERS, M. D., a leading medical practitioner at Ohio City, was born at Tedrow, Fulton County, Ohio, in 1867, and is a son of David Ayers and a member of one of the pioneer families of his native county.

Moses Ayers, the grandfather of Dr. Ayers, moved to Fulton County when it was practically a wilderness, entering a large body of Government land there. He was a native of Maryland. On the maternal side, grandfather Tedrow was one of the earliest settlers in Fulton County, and the postoffice of that name keeps in memory one of its most prominent citizens in his day.

David Ayers, father of Dr. Ayers, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, in April, 1828, and removed with his father to Fulton County, in 1838. He became a prominent farmer in Fulton County at a later date, and served as county treasurer from 1871 to 1875. He married Ann Bayes, who was born in Holmes County, Ohio, in 1835, but later accompanied her parents to Fulton County.

M. M. Ayers was reared at Tedrow, where he obtained his earlier education, going from there to the Normal School at Wauseon, and later teaching school for two years. In 1890 he entered the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor. Here he remained through the

four-years' course, his being the first class that, as a whole, took the four-years' medical course there. He was graduated with credit in 1894, and returned to Tedrow, where he remained for six months, removing then to Continental, Putnam County, where he practiced his profession until March, 1902. After taking a thorough post-graduate course at the Chicago Post Graduate College, he located for one year at Wauseon, and then came to Ohio City where he has since been in active work. Dr. Ayers is one of the progressive medical men of this city, always awake to all the scientific discoveries of benefit to his profession, and he keeps himself closely in touch with the best medical thought of his time by membership in the Ohio State Medical Society and the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association.

Politically, Dr. Ayers is a Republican. In Putnam County he served several years as a member of the Republican Executive Committee. Fraternally, he is a Mason, a member of Eureka Lodge, No. 592, of Ohio City, and of the Knights of the Maccabees, of which order he is a trustee and tent physician. He is also identified with the Fraternal Order of Eagles.



ROLLAND EVANS, one of Vanedocia's venerable retired and highly esteemed residents and one of the best-known citizens of York township, was born at Llänbrynmair, Montgomeryshire, Wales, July 21, 1820, and is a son of William and Margaret (Davis) Evans.

The parents of Mr. Evans lived and died in Wales, the father at the age of 87 years, and the mother at the age of 79. Of their nine children, our subject is the only survivor, and was the fourth in order of birth.

Rolland Evans was reared on his father's

farm, where he remained until 22 years of age; he then decided to emigrate to America. With his young wife, in 1842, he took passage in a sailing vessel to make his first voyage across the ocean. This was completed in five weeks and three days. Mr. Evans has crossed the Atlantic nine different times, and has noted the improved methods of transportation on each trip. On his first trip he landed in New York City, and from there went to Utica, New York. He was able to perform almost any kind of manual labor, and during a protracted period was engaged as a wood chopper. In 1845 he joined his uncle, John Evans, at Paddy's Run, Butler County, Ohio. The latter died in 1893, aged 96 years.

In 1849 Mr. Evans settled in Jennings township, Van Wert County, buying 80 acres of land three-fourths of a mile from Venedocia, for which he paid \$310. The land was covered with forest growth, and before it could be conveniently reached a road had to be cut through. For a number of years he assisted in making roads in different directions, good highways being very necessary adjuncts at all times to successful agriculture. Mr. Evans found his nearest mill depot at Delphos, and a trip there necessitated his staying over night. Spencerville consisted then of a single frame house, although the frame of the first mill was being laid. During the period required to clear his farm, Mr. Evans and family lived in a hewed-log cabin, which remained the family home until 1879, and subsisted mainly on the game which was plentiful all about them.

Mr. Evans still owns the farm in Jennings township, as mentioned above and which now contains 127 acres of well-improved land. He continued to reside there until 1880, when he retired from business activity, purchasing his present dwelling in Venedocia. This residence was the first one erected on the west side

of Main street, and is a very comfortable home. Although Mr. Evans reached this locality with a very limited amount of capital, he possessed the qualities which brought success, and is now one of the substantial men of this region. He has interested himself with all the agencies which have contributed to make Van Wert County civilized and prosperous, and early identified himself with educational and religious affairs. In those early days of the first Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church in Jennings township, services were often held out-of-doors, with the sky for a canopy and with dense woods all around to echo the hymns of praise. Those were the days when those revered preachers, William Bebb and Thomas Morris, ministered to the people and with earnest persuasion led their thoughts away from the sordid cares and many hardships of their daily lives. For some time also services were held in the home of Rev. William Bebb. Mr. Evans was a liberal contributor to the building of the first church edifice.

In 1842, in Wales, Mr. Evans was first married, espousing Jane Jones, who was a daughter of John Jones. She died in 1884. To this marriage two children were born at Utica, two at Paddy's Run, and two in Van Wert County. Mr. Evans was married (second) on August 28, 1886, to Mrs. Ann (Morgan) Jones, a daughter of John Morgan. She was a widow at this time with a family of three sons and one daughter. She also has one sister and one brother.

The children of Mr. Evans were: William D.; John, who died aged 19 years; Robert, who died in infancy; Eleanor, who was married May 4, 1865, to Oren O. Pugh, has six children, and since the age of 15 years has been a consistent member of the Calvinistic Methodist Church; Margaret, (wife of John N. Jones, who at death left two children); and

Mary, who united with the Calvinistic Methodist Church when but 15 years of age, married Richard Breese, resides in Van Wert and has four children. Mrs. Evans belongs to Salem Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church at Venedocia. Mr. Evans has every reason to be proud of his descendants, 16 of whom are grandchildren and 14 are great-grandchildren.

WILLIAM D. EVANS, the eldest son of Roland Evans, was born in Butler County, Ohio, in December, 1846, and accompanied his parents to Van Wert County. He was only 14 years of age when he united with the Calvinistic Methodist Church at Venedocia, and he had been a consistent member and an earnest worker until his lamented death on September 6, 1891.

On February 27, 1873, William D. Evans was married to Sarah A. Davies, who was born in Butler County, Ohio, May 19, 1849, and was 15 years of age when she was received into the fellowship of the Calvinistic Methodist Church at Gomer. She is a daughter of the late David D. Davies and wife, the former of whom died in 1900 and the latter in 1902. The children of William D. Evans and wife were: J. Russell, who married Sarah Williams, of Oak Hill; Robert T.; William A.; Edgar R., who died in 1902; David C., and Bertha A.



W. MAHAN, senior member of the firm of Mahan & Johnson, and one of the reliable business men of Van Wert, was born March 7, 1854, on a farm near the village of Jamestown, in Greene County, Ohio. He is a son of Charles and Adelia (Johnson) Mahan, who are residents of Van Wert, and have passed the 80th milestone in life's journey. The father reached his 84th anniversary on the 5th of December,

1905, and six days later the mother attained her 83rd year. The former was a native of Ross, and the latter of Greene County; but both were reared in the latter county where they were joined in marriage in 1843. They were the parents of 10 children, all of whom grew to maturity and eight of whom are still living. About 1862 they came to this county and lived on a farm in the vicinity of Van Wert for about 10 years. They then went to Indiana and remained one year, after which they returned to Van Wert, where they continued to reside. James Johnson, the maternal grandfather, was a native of Virginia, while the Mahan family are of Irish descent, having sprung from four brothers who came to this country during colonial times, one settling in Ohio, one in Kentucky and two in Virginia.

C. W. Mahan was a lad of eight years when his parents moved to this county. The farm upon which they settled has since been included within the city limits of Van Wert. He continued to live on the farm and engage in that work until he was about 21, when he went to Indiana and, for a short time, was in the lumber business. Returning to Van Wert, he was employed in a grist-mill until 1896, when he moved to Dunkirk, Ohio, and ran an elevator for a year, handling a considerable quantity of grain. He then purchased the grist-mill in Van Wert, which was conducted two years as the Mahan & Rice mill, his partner being Samuel Rice. Selling his interest in this enterprise, he built a grain elevator at Elgin, which was soon disposed of at a good price, after which he bought and sold hay until he formed his present partnership with S. E. Johnson and purchased the elevator which had formerly belonged to Thaddeus S. Gilliland. They took possession of this property in September, 1905, and are buying and shipping large quantities of grain.

On December 30, 1886, Mr. Mahan was

joined in marriage to Mary A. Rice, who is a native of Mercer County, but was reared from childhood in Van Wert County, her parents, Paul and Elizabeth Rice, having been residents here many years. Mr. and Mrs. Mahan have two children, Madge and Ivan S. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics Mr. Mahan affiliates with the Republicans. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and a man of kindly and charitable attributes.

RUBEN HOOKS, a highly esteemed citizen and progressive farmer of Liberty township, owning 80 acres of farm land in section 23 and 70 acres, section 32, was born in Mercer County, Ohio, June 25, 1840, and is a son of William and Lydia (Harp) Hooks and grandson of Thomas Hooks, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1784 and died in 1834.

William Hooks was born in Pennsylvania in 1810, and removed to Mercer County in 1833, locating near Shanes Crossing (now known as Rockford) where he lived until his removal to Liberty township, Van Wert County, in 1841. Here he was engaged by Levi Roland to split 10,000 rails, for which he received 40 acres of timberland. At that time there were only seven voters in the township. Later he purchased 80 acres adjoining that land for which he paid \$1 per acre. He then sold a tract of 40 acres of land near Fort Wayne, Indiana, which he had previously acquired, and added 40 acres to his 120 acres, making a total of 160 acres. In 1839 he was married to Lydia Harp, a daughter of Peter Harp, who in 1831 migrated from Montgomery County, Ohio, to Mercer County. William Hooks

died in 1840, his wife having passed away in 1826.

William Hooks was the father of six children, namely: Malinda (Hankins), of Van Wert; Ruben; Inman, of Lima; Mary Ann (Miller), of Dublin township, Mercer County; Abraham, who lives in Lima; and Frank, who died at the age of 38 years. William Hooks died in 1888, and his wife in 1896.

Ruben Hooks was reared and educated in Liberty township. He was married on January 30, 1866, to Manerva Miller, a daughter of Rev. Abram and Martha (Garrison) Miller. Mrs. Hooks' father was born in Perry County, Ohio, March 22, 1808, and was a son of Peter and Mary Miller. Rev. Abram Miller was raised in the county named and later moved to Fairfield County and thence, in 1832 or 1833, to Mercer County. He was a minister of the United Brethren Church. He died March 9, 1874, near Mendon, Mercer County.

Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Hooks have one child, William Sherman, who was born December 5, 1867. He married Alma Waters and lives in Payne, Paulding County, Ohio, where he is the proprietor of an undertaking establishment.

Mr. Hooks is a Civil war veteran. In 1864 he enlisted in Company A, 41st Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served until the end of the war. He moved to his present location February 14, 1866, and has lived here continuously since. A week after his marriage he commenced to occupy a house of hewn logs which he had himself built, and made this the family home until 1905, when the household moved into their new frame residence, which had been erected in the preceding summer. Mr. Hooks has served one term as trustee of Liberty township, and is highly honored both for his upright and substantial character and his good citizenship.

JOHAN ACKLEY, one of the substantial representative citizens, successful farmers and well-known men of Union township, who is also a veteran survivor of the Civil war, was born October 30, 1835, near Olive Green, Noble County, Ohio, and is a son of Erastus and Ara (Adney) Ackley.

The father of our subject was born in New York, but died in Ohio, in 1862, at the age of 58 years. The mother was born in Pennsylvania, and also died in Ohio, at the age of 97 years. They had 11 children, as follows: Jane (Mrs. Benjamin Mothena), of Vinton County, Ohio; Fannie (Smallwood), of Montezuma, Indiana; John, of this sketch; Asenath, of Cass County, Missouri; Arthusa (Hescott) of Jackson County; Obed, who died while capturing a prisoner, being shot in the battle of Mission Ridge; Phebe, deceased, who was the wife of Thomas Smith, who died after his return from the army; Israel, deceased; Julia (Johnson), of Chillicothe; Jacob, a member of the 12th Regiment Ohio Vol. Cav., during the Civil war, who died at Plain City; and Nancy (Byers), of Ross County. It was a happy, domestic circle when the children were all at home together. All survived to maturity and all married.

Our subject remained on the home farm until he was 18 years of age, when his father sold the homestead and moved to Vinton County and settled on a farm near Vigo. The son remained, assisting on the new farm until his marriage, when he removed to Jackson County and located on a rented farm. It was from Jackson County that he enlisted, October 1, 1861, in Company D, 53rd Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., under Captain Crumits. The first battle in which the regiment took part was at Shiloh, and it participated in all the engagements until it was ordered to assist in construct-

ing fortifications at Memphis, and then went on to Vicksburg and to Jackson, and then accompanied General Sherman in the Mississippi and Atlanta campaign to the sea. The 53rd then marched through the Carolinas to Raleigh and on to Washington for the Grand Review. After this the regiment was sent to Little Rock, Arkansas. After the expiration of his first enlistment, Mr. Ackley veteranized January 1, 1864, and served as a veteran for some months. He was finally honorably discharged at Camp Dennison, August 11, 1865. Although during this long period Mr. Ackley had been exposed to every vicissitude attending the life of a brave soldier, and had participated in numberless terrific battles, including Lookout Mountain, the only injury he sustained was a slight one in his face, just under his right eye.

After his army service was over, he returned to Jackson County. In the summer of 1871 he went to Sumner County, Kansas, where he remained two years, during which period he cast his vote in favor of making Wellington the county-seat. He bought out a claim of 160 acres in Sumner County, but in 1873 he returned to Ohio and purchased a farm of 140 acres in Vinton County. In 1895 he came to Van Wert County, trading his Vinton County farm in 1898, for his present one of 80 acres, situated in section 9, Union township. Here he has successfully carried on general farming, has erected good buildings and enjoys continued prosperity.

In 1860, Mr. Ackley was married to Almira Utz, who was born in Pennsylvania, October 30, 1843, and died here October 24, 1904. She was a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Propes) Utz, natives of Pennsylvania and Germany, respectively. The 11 children of this union were: Alzina, wife of James Osengbaugh, of Williamstown, West Virginia; Sherman of Union township; Belle, wife of Albert

Wilson, of Auglaize County; Zoa, residing at home; Logan, of Union township; John, residing at home; Joseph, who died aged 22 years; Daisy, who died aged 20 years; Maude, living at home; Minnie, who died aged three years, and a child who died in infancy.

Politically Mr. Ackley is a Republican. He is a member of Lieut. Fellers' Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Raysville, Jackson County, Ohio.

JACOB CLOUSE, who is distinguished as the first white child born in Liberty township, is also an honored survivor of the Civil war and an esteemed resident of Ohio City. He was born November 19, 1838, and is a son of George and Elizabeth (Kessler) Clouse.

George Clouse, the father, was the second householder to locate in Liberty township, Van Wert County, coming here when the entire country was covered with its native growth of timber, and when the Indians still claimed much of the land and, by their unfriendly attitude, caused much uneasiness among the scattered settlers. George Clouse was born in Congress township, Wayne County, Ohio, and was a son of Michael Clouse, a native of Germany. Michael Clouse entered 160 acres of land in Liberty township, which he divided between his two sons, George and Michael. The latter, however, never settled here, but sold his 80 acres to his brother George, who, with his wife, came hither on September 2, 1838.

The "History of Ohio," by Harris, states that our subject, Jacob Clouse, was born on this land in a tent; this statement, however, is a mistake which the present biographer is glad to correct. In the fall, as above stated, the family located in the woods, and George Clouse immediately set to work to fashion some kind

of a shelter for his young wife. He succeeded in putting together a room of logs—as complete a structure as one man could erect without assistance—which could not be denominated a cabin in the accepted definition of the word, but was far removed from a tent. In this humble little home, in the great wilderness, with the wild animals peering through the unilluminated darkness of the forest, our subject was born, the first of nine children. The other members of the family were: Solomon, who died in infancy; Michael; William; George Washington; Mrs. Mary Jane Duncan; Esly; Elizabeth, who died in infancy; and Hugh, who died aged two years. George Clouse clung to the task of clearing his land until the time of his death, which occurred June 26, 1859, his wife surviving him until 1889. She was a woman of remarkable force of character, and had passed through the pioneer hardships with courage and cheerfulness.

Jacob Clouse was reared in Liberty township and attended the local schools as opportunity offered. On September 30, 1860, Mr. Clouse was married (first) to Elizabeth Roush, a daughter of Samuel Roush, who was a native of Germany and a resident of Medina County, Ohio. There were four children born to this marriage, namely: Mary Elizabeth, who died when almost 12 years of age; Elnora, who married (first) John Temple, and (second) Jesse Roberts; Sarah Alberta, wife of Thomas Miller; and Eva Jane, who is the wife of William Flager. Mrs. Clouse died in 1867, and Mr. Clouse married (second) Emeline Boyer, who died in 1869, leaving two children—Charles and John O. Mr. Clouse was later united to the present Mrs. Clouse, formerly Sarah Jane Emerine. They both belong to the Lutheran Church. Since selling his farm of 80 acres, Mr. Clouse has resided in a comfortable home in Ohio City.

Mr. Clouse is an old soldier of the Civil war, having served from the beginning of hostilities until his honorable discharge June 27, 1865. He was a member of Company A, 99th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., first under Capt. W. C. Scott and later under Capt. W. T. Exline. He saw considerable hard service, received a number of slight wounds, and has a record of which he may feel proud as a faithful, loyal soldier.

DAVID B. STEMEN is an influential, progressive and well-to-do farmer, who has devoted the greater part of his life to cultivating and improving his fine farm of 94.7 acres, situated in section 6, Washington township. He was born October 1, 1856, on the farm which he now occupies and is the oldest child of John and Lydia E. (Myers) Stemen.

The Stemen family originated in Switzerland. Christian Stemen, the great-great-grandfather of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania, it is thought, on May 28, 1747. He was the father of Peter Stemen, who was also a native of Pennsylvania and was born January 2, 1771. Christian Stemen, son of Peter, was born April 23, 1799, in Rockingham County, Pennsylvania, and was the father of John Stemen.

John Stemen, the father of our subject, was born in 1825, in Fairfield County, Ohio, and at the age of nine years accompanied his parents to Allen County, Ohio, where they settled on a tract of land in the woods, north of Elida. He helped to clear the land and improve the farm. In 1850 he bought 94.7 acres of land in section 6, Washington township, Van Wert County—the property that the subject of this sketch now occupies. This tract of land was in the woods, without house, barn or fences, and

without any road leading to it. In 1855 John Stemen was married in Allen County, Ohio, to Lydia E. Myers, and in 1856 built a log cabin on his land in Washington township and with his wife moved to his home in the woods. He at once proceeded to clear the land. John Stemen died October 9, 1875, aged 50 years. His widow still lives on the old farm, with her oldest child, David B. Stemen. The farm is now all cleared and well drained with tile, with good buildings and the necessary arrangements for the stabling of all the live-stock on the place. John Stemen was the father of eight children, of whom but three are living. The record follows: David B., our subject; Mary A. (Wallace); Martha, deceased at the age of 20 years; Edward, deceased at the age of four months; William, who lives in Ridge township on his farm of 55 acres, which is in a fine state of cultivation, with excellent buildings; Louis H., deceased at the age of 25 years; Benjamin, deceased at the age of 19 years; and John, deceased at the age of two years. John Stemen was a warm personal friend of Thaddeus S. Gilliland, the historian of this work.

David B. Stemen was reared and educated in his native township. He was married on February 20, 1879, to Mary E. Bressler, a daughter of George and Mary (Jamison) Bressler. Mrs. Stemen's father is a resident of Van Wert; her mother died in 1873. To Mr. and Mrs. Stemen were born nine children: Clarence, born March 25, 1880, who married Maud Anderson and has two children—Mary and Lloyd; Orpha M., born September 6, 1881, who married Noah Ashbaugh on October 7, 1903, and died April 2, 1905, leaving one child—David Lawrence; William, born March 14, 1884, who married Bessie Ross; Irvin, born April 10, 1886; Jesse Allen, born March 10, 1889; Alnorah, born August 20, 1891; October Raymond, born October 2, 1898; Grace, born

December 2, 1901; and David L., born February 13, 1904. David B. Stemen is a member of the Methodist Church, of which he is also treasurer and one of the trustees.

HERMAN C. AUSTIN. The poultry business has come to be recognized as one of the important industries of the United States. The demand for eggs and poultry is always in excess of the supply and this has been the cause of numberless houses opening up all over the country as a market for this particular farm product. Van Wert is now well supplied with facilities for caring for eggs and poultry. The movement in this section may be said to have been inaugurated by Sanford B. Austin, who started in as a poultry dealer in 1872. Since that time it has been carried on by members of the Austin family, and Herman C. Austin is now the proprietor of one of the largest and most flourishing plants in the city. Mr. Austin was born April 5, 1865, about 20 miles south of the city of Boston, and is a son of Sanford B. and L. Olivet (Field) Austin.

The Austin family is of English origin, long established in Massachusetts. Sanford B. Austin was the eldest of three brothers, all of whom served through the Civil war in the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment. Albert A. Austin enlisted when but 15 years of age. He dealt extensively in horses after the war, but is now deceased. The third brother resides in Louisiana and is a well-known horseman. There were four sisters, all of whom were school teachers and had received college educations. Two of them are deceased. Sanford B. Austin came to Van Wert in 1872, and engaged in buying, packing and shipping poultry, being the first to engage in that line of

business here, and has always kept at the head of the enterprise. He was also well known to horsemen throughout the country on account of the many fancy horses he placed on the market, his draft and other high-bred stock always commanding the highest prices. He enjoys an extended acquaintance throughout the State. In 1890 he moved to New England, where he lived three years, after which he lived in Toledo for a couple of years. He is at present in Virginia for the winter, and is engaged in raising some fancy stock for his own pastime.

Mr. Austin was married to L. Olivet Field, whose birthplace was near Boston in the same house in which her father was born, on the banks of Lake Winneconnette. Six children were born to them: Herman C.; Katie, wife of I. M. Risk, of Toledo—Mrs. Risk is cashier for the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company's Toledo house, of which her husband is manager; Nellie, wife of Fred L. Jones, a banker of Columbus; Ruby, wife of Arthur S. Salm, of Toledo; Lillian and Lendall (twins), the former in Virginia and the latter in Toledo, where he is day clerk in Hotel De Veaux. Mr. Austin is a member of the Lutheran Church. He was a Republican in former years, but more recently supports the Prohibition policy. He was elected mayor of Van Wert at one time, but resigned after a few months, as public life holds no charm for him.

Herman C. Austin was eight years of age when his parents first came to Van Wert, where he has spent the greater part of his life. He began to assist his father in the business at an early age, and in 1890 returned to Massachusetts, where he represented his father for two years in the produce business, at the same time dealing extensively in horses. Returning to Van Wert in 1893, Mr. Austin opened a poultry, egg and produce market for himself, which

he has spent the greater part of his life. He basis. He pays the highest market price for eggs, poultry, etc., buying only the best, his purchases amounting at times to about \$5,000 per week, while it requires during the busiest times a force of 25 pickers and packers to prepare the goods for the Eastern markets.

Mr. Austin was married in 1886 to Katie Ostheimer, a native of Greenville, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Solomon Ostheimer, who later moved to Van Wert County. Mr. and Mrs. Austin have two children, Hazel C. and Kathleen Mavourneen, the former a young lady of 17 years and the latter of 10. Mr. Austin has been singularly fortunate in that there has never been a death in either his own or his father's family. He is secretary of the Sons of Veterans at Van Wert and is also a prominent Knight of Pythias.

JAMES A. SWOVELAND, one of the prominent citizens of Ohio City, the owner of the leading drug business, secretary and manager of the Ohio City Telephone Company, and a director of the Farmers' Bank, was born in 1871 in Liberty township, Van Wert County, Ohio, and is a son of Peter and Mary Catherine (Weagly) Swoveland.

Peter Swoveland was born in Richland County, Ohio, August 20, 1839, and was a son of Jacob and Sarah Swoveland. In 1842 he was taken by his parents to Van Wert County, where his father located on a tract of forest land in Liberty township, about one mile south of the present site of Ohio City. Peter was the second born in a family of 10 children, two of whom still survive, viz.: John A., of Tipton, Indiana, and Aaron F., of Sims, Indiana. In 1861 Peter Swoveland enlisted for service in

the Civil war, entering Company H, Fourth Regiment, Ohio Vol. Cal., and re-enlisted in 1864, at the expiration of his first term, in the same company and regiment, at Pulaski, Tennessee. He received his honorable discharge on July 22, 1865, having faithfully and loyally served through the entire war without mishap, except a short period of imprisonment by the enemy. In all that long time he was absent but once in the face of danger, from his regiment, that being when he was forcibly detained by the Confederates. Soon after his return from the army, Peter Swoveland married Mary Catherine Weagly, who still survives, with their nine children. When Mr. Swoveland died January 31, 1905, there passed away a man of sterling character. His children are: John A., George F., James A., Jacob R., William E., Hiram O., Ottis F., Lewis P. and Odel M.

James A. Swoveland attended first the schools of Willshire township and later the Tri-State Normal College, at Angola, Indiana; then took up the study of pharmacy, and in 1892 was graduated at the Ohio Normal University at Ada, in this branch. He entered into business as a druggist almost immediately, at Ohio City, where he has remained ever since. He has been interested in many of the leading enterprises of the city. He was one of the organizers of the Ohio City Home Telephone Company, of which he is secretary and manager, and has been a leading factor in other successful organizations.

In June, 1895, Mr. Swoveland was married to Mabel B. Cassel, who was a daughter of the late Rev. Jacob Cassel, a minister of the Church of God, who, at the time of his death was traveling in the interest of Findlay College. Mr. and Mrs. Swoveland have two children, namely: Von C. and Beatrice A.

Mr. Swoveland has always taken an active

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MR. AND MRS. WESLEY FRAGER

interest in educational matters here, and taught several terms of school in his earlier years, in Van Wert County. He has served five years as treasurer of Liberty township, but takes no part in politics beyond the efforts of a public-spirited citizen. He is a member of the Church of God of Ohio City, of which he is a deacon, and he is serving his third year as the superintendent of the Sunday-school. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias.



WESLEY FRAGER, a retired farmer living at Middlepoint, and the owner of 140 acres of as fine farm land as can be found, in section 26, Ridge township, is a native of the Buckeye State, having made his advent into the home of Lewis and Sidney (Harper) Frager in Stark County, Ohio, on April 27, 1842. His grandfather, Jacob Frager, was born near Baltimore, Maryland, and was at one time engaged in running a ferryboat across the Ohio river at Harper's Ferry. Lewis Frager removed from Columbiana County, Ohio, to Stark County, and was there married to Sidney Harper, who had been a resident there since her 12th year when she came to that county from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. In 1852 they moved to Ridge township, Van Wert County, where they engaged in farming and resided until their death, the father passing away in January, 1903, and the mother in August of the same year. The deceased had been esteemed pioneers in the two counties—Stark and Van Wert. They are survived by our subject and two daughters—Mrs. Melinda Ross, of Ridge township, and Mrs. Louisa Judd, a resident of Middlepoint.

After leaving the district school, in which he acquired his education, Wesley Frager be-

gan work on his father's farm and continued in this employment until 1882, when he embarked in the grain business at Middlepoint. He was associated in this enterprise with Harrison Leathers for about eight years, when he sold out to Ireton Brothers and is now living in retirement in his pleasant Middlepoint home, which is owned by him, as well as the farm, which is rented. Mr. Frager entered the Union Army as a member of Company G, 15th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., having enlisted in September, 1864, and served in Tennessee until February, 1865, when he was honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio.

On June 10, 1897, Wesley Frager was united in marriage to Catherine Wiker, a native of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Phillip and Catherine (Lawson) Wiker, natives of Lancaster and York counties, Pennsylvania, respectively.

Mr. Frager is a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church, of which he is trustee; holds a prominent place in the membership of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is also a member of Zellar Hamilton Post, G. A. R., at Middlepoint. Honorable and upright in his everyday life, he is a man among men and well deserves the high regard in which he is held. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Frager accompany this sketch.



HARRISON W. FOLTZ, who owns and operates a well-improved farm of 80 acres in section 28, Hoaglin township, has been a resident of this vicinity but a few years; yet he is already widely and favorably known by reason of his energy and enterprise as one of the most influential and prominent citizens of Van Wert County. Mr. Foltz was born in Hancock County, Ohio.

August 8, 1858, and is a son of Noah and Mary A. (Hizzey) Foltz. His parents were natives of Virginia, his father being of German and his mother (supposedly) of English descent.

Harrison W. Foltz was reared in Hancock County, remaining there until he was about 32 years of age, when he went to Jay County, Indiana, and resided there until 1898. He then came to Van Wert County, and soon after moved to the farm now owned by him. Mr. Foltz is not only a good farmer, but a good citizen, and is always ready to do his share in promoting the welfare of the public. It was largely through his efforts that the pike roads in Heaglin township were built, as it was the result of a petition started by Mr. Foltz that the first pike road in the township, known as "Johns' Pike," was constructed.

Mr. Foltz was married June 12, 1898, to Mary A. Ketzenbarger, who was born in Hancock County, Ohio, June 26, 1862. Her parents, Sebastian and Rachel (Cramer) Ketzenbarger, were natives of Germany and Fairfield County, Ohio, respectively, and were among the first settlers of Hancock County. Mr. and Mrs. Foltz have two children: H. Holland, who was born February 6, 1899, and Robert K., born June 2, 1905. Mr. Foltz is a Democrat. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

JONATHAN BARNES, one of the substantial farmers and respected citizens of Jackson township, who resides on his home farm of 226½ acres, situated in section 5, was born July 16, 1852, in Pickaway County, Ohio, and is a son of

William and Christina (Wood) Barnes. The parents of Mr. Barnes were natives of England, coming to America about 1845, and locating first at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but later settling in Pickaway County, Ohio.

Jonathan Barnes was reared in Pickaway and Fayette counties, Ohio, was educated in the public schools, and has devoted his mature life to agricultural pursuits. When Mr. Barnes settled on his farm in Jackson township, he was a pioneer in this locality, and for some years was obliged to endure the hardships attendant upon distance from good markets and poor public highways. He was, therefore, one of the active promoters of the excellent turnpike road which runs north and south through the center of Jackson township, which has done so much to aid in the development of this locality. But his main business was the clearing and improving of his Jackson township farm, and he is now also the owner of an 80-acre farm in Union township.

Mr. Barnes was married July 27, 1872, to Melissa Dunbar, who was born in Carroll County, Ohio, August 4, 1850. Mrs. Barnes' father died when she was a child in Jackson County, whither the family had removed when she was six weeks old. Her mother subsequently married John Thompson and they removed to Madison County, where Mrs. Barnes resided at the time of her marriage. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Barnes are: Albert, of Union township, Van Wert County; Josephine, wife of George Miller, of Jackson township; George H. and Thomas, living at home; and Hugh, Annie and Sarah Elizabeth, who all died at the age of eighteen months and one child, at birth. Mr. Barnes stands deservedly high in the esteem of his fellow-citizens, having proven himself an honorable man, a good neighbor and a public spirited citizen.

EMERY LATTANNER, editor of the *Van Wert Morning Daily Times* and *Times-Democrat*, semi-weekly, was born on a farm in Williams County, Ohio, December 4, 1866. He is the product of a close-of-the-war marriage, his father having served over three years under General Thomas. The young man received a good common-school education and then attended the Montpelier (Ohio) High School, where he graduated in May, 1885. The following week he became the deputy county treasurer, remaining there until January 1, 1888, when he became bookkeeper in The Farmers' National Bank at Bryan. In January, 1889, he was made assistant cashier and in November of the same year was elected cashier to fill a vacancy, serving until February, 1897, when he resigned and became a bookkeeper in a Cleveland bank for a time. He was for years the youngest bank cashier in Ohio.

In 1898 he entered the newspaper business on the *Findlay Courier* in the advertising and business department. In October, 1900, with others, he purchased the *Van Wert Times* and the *Van Wert Democrat*—two weeklies—and consolidated the two into a semi-weekly. In June, 1904, the paper was sold, but in July, a month later, a stock company bought it back and established in connection the *Morning Daily Times*. Mr. Lattanner has been the editor from the beginning. An up-to-date linotype machine was put in and the paper made up-to-date to meet the requirements of the growing city and county.

Mr. Lattanner has ever taken an active part in the political affairs and has been signally honored on numerous occasions by being placed in charge of the campaigns of the Democratic party. He was chosen chairman of the campaign committee in Williams County when 20 years of age, was chairman of the commit-

tee in Hancock County and in Van Wert County and has served as a member on committees in nearly every campaign. He served as a member of the State Central Committee and was made a member of the State Executive Committee in 1903. He was an alternate to the National Democratic Convention at Chicago in 1892 and in the absence of the delegate voted for Grover Cleveland.

He never sought an office, but was elected a member-at-large of the Board of Education of Bryan, without opposition and was chosen president of the board. He served on the City Council twice, once by appointment and once by election and as chairman of the electric light committee was active in installing a municipal light plant at Bryan in connection with the water plant.

He has been active in Pythian affairs, has passed through all the chairs and was representative to the Grand Lodge three terms and served on Grand Lodge committees.

Mr. Lattanner is married and is the father of one daughter.



H. JOHNS, proprietor of one of the most successful poultry houses in Van Wert, was born July 20, 1842, about two miles from this city, on a farm owned by his parents, William and Lucy Jane (Broom) Johns. His grandfather was Samuel Johns, who came from Wales in very early times and settled in Pennsylvania. William Johns was born in Pennsylvania in 1812, and in early manhood went to Richland County, Ohio, where he was married to Lucy Jane Broom. In October, 1837, they located in Van Wert County. Here William Johns entered 80 acres of land and bought an additional 80 in Pleasant township. He was one of the large-

est fur dealers in the country at that time, and also dealt quite extensively in live-stock, but paid little attention to regular farm work. After the death of his wife in 1865, he moved to Van Wert, where he died in 1871. Mrs. Johns was born August 2, 1816, near Marietta, Ohio, and became the mother of six children, viz.: David A., deceased, for many years a prosperous merchant of Van Wert; Mary, who died at the age of four years; William, who died at the age of two; J. H., our subject; Alvina (Springer), deceased; and a child who died in infancy.

J. H. Johns left the paternal roof to do for himself at the age of 16, and that winter taught his first term of school. He continued teaching until he entered the general store of Bonewitz & Johns as a clerk, his brother being one of the partners. Two years later he went to Chicago, where he took a complete business course in one of the best commercial colleges of that city. He then returned to Van Wert and resumed his old position as clerk, with the additional work of keeping the books of the company. In 1866 he went to Columbia City, Indiana, where he engaged in the dry goods business, the firm being Johns, Meely & Company. Once more returning to Van Wert, he engaged in the live-stock industry with Sampson Kohn, the business being conducted under the name of Sampson Kohn & Company. Following this he entered the employ of Capt. T. S. Gilliland, and was with him as buyer and bookkeeper from 1889 until 1892. It was about this time that he embarked in his present business, which is a very profitable one and to which he devotes his entire time.

Mr. Johns was married in 1863 to Mary E. Riddle, daughter of Thomas J. and Ann (Cooper) Riddle; she was born in Hamilton County, Ohio, and came to Van Wert County with her widowed mother. Two of their chil-

dren are living and two have passed to the higher life, namely: Charles S., who was unmarried and died in September, 1904, at the age of 36 years; Lucy A., wife of Von S. Goetz, of Indianapolis; Gay C., who is a student in a convent at Cleveland; and Gertrude, who died in infancy. The comfortable home on Washington and Sycamore streets was erected by Mr. Johns in 1898. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church and of the National Union. He was in the county auditor's office three or four years under L. A. Harvey, and also represented the First Ward in the Van Wert City Council.



GEORGE H. BALTZELL, the owner of a finely improved farm of 75 acres of farm land in section 35, Liberty township, was born in Dublin township, Mercer County, Ohio, on December 20, 1861, and is a son of Harrison and Nancy (Barton) Baltzell, the latter of whom died in 1898.

Harrison Baltzell is also a native of Mercer County and still resides on the farm of 120 acres on which he was born. Joseph Baltzell, the paternal grandfather, was one of the pioneers of the county in which both his son and grandson were born.

George Baltzell was reared and educated in Mercer County and has always been engaged in farming. The first of his two marriages was with Cora Z. Buck, of Dublin township, and they had three children—Dona, Dema and Howard (who died aged eight years). Mrs. Baltzell died in Dublin township, Mercer County, in the year 1892. After the death of his wife, Mr. Baltzell sold his farm of 40 acres in Dublin township and in 1896 bought his present farm of 75 acres, which was then without buildings of any kind. He has since erected

a house, barn and all the other necessary buildings. His second marriage, on the 21st of August, 1895, was with Angela Miller, a daughter of Rev. Peter A. Miller, and of this union there were four children—Kenneth; Dwight; Genevieve and Mary Frances. Mr. and Mrs. Baltzell are both members of the Christian Union Church, he being superintendent of the Sunday-school.

PETER KESLER, a retired citizen of the city of Van Wert, and a gentleman of the most exemplary character, has devoted his life to the pursuits of agriculture. He has accumulated a neat competency, which enables him to spend the evening of his life in well-earned ease and comfort. Mr. Kesler was born June 21, 1837, in Fairfield County, Ohio, near the village of Amanda, and is one of 13 children born to Samuel and Louisa (Frazier) Kesler. Samuel Kesler was born July 12, 1812, in Fairfield County, and in September, 1840, came to Van Wert County and entered 160 acres of land in Ridge township, about six miles east of Van Wert. With his wife and four young children he took possession of a little log cabin on this property, and it was not until a number of years had passed that this structure gave way to a more comfortable, modern residence. He continued to reside on this property for 55 years, until his death October 20, 1895, at a good old age. His first wife, Louisa Frazier, and the mother of his 13 children, was a daughter of Jacob Frazier and was born in Fairfield County. She died in 1881 at the age of 68 years. Her children were: Jacob, deceased, a veteran of the Civil war; Peter; Barbara (Workman), deceased; Laura (Griswold), of Fort Wayne; Mary Jane (Malchi), deceased; Reuben, of

Ridge township; Mattie (Baker), of Elwood, Indiana; Charles, of Ridge township; Ellen (High), deceased; Sarah (Hire), of Union township; and three who died in infancy. In 1885 Samuel Kesler was united to Mrs. Margaret Fisher, who resides in Middlepoint, Ohio. He was an earnest Christian and a devoted member of the Lutheran Church.

Peter Kesler has always been a farmer, and from the age of three until his 25th year he resided on the farm near Van Wert. August 26, 1862, he enlisted in Company A, 99th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., under Capt. W. C. Scott, and was sent to the front. A year later, on account of disability, he was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps and set as a guard over prisoners. Later, he was sent from Columbus to Chicago, where he was discharged at the close of the war. Having been married while home on a furlough, he now rented a farm of his father's near Convoy, and cultivated it four years. He then purchased 80 acres which adjoined his father's farm in Union township. He had lived there about 10 years when he sold out and moved to Shelby County, Illinois, and purchased 160 acres upon which he lived 14 years, until the death of his father made it necessary for him to return to Ohio. He bought 85 acres of the old homestead and made that his home for almost 10 years, after which he rented the farm, and on the first of March, 1905, moved to Van Wert, where he owns one of the finest residences in the city.

Mr. Kesler was married September 1, 1865, to Martha Ann Johnson, daughter of William and Ellen (Burcaw) Johnson. She was born December 3, 1844, in Butler County, Ohio, and was a child of six years when her parents removed to Ridge township, Van Wert County. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kesler, namely: William Samuel, who died at the age of one year and nine months; Ida

May, born May 11, 1870, who died October 20, 1872; and Chloe Delila (Mrs. Walter Lockhart), who lives with her parents. Mr. Kesler is a member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Van Wert. He has been a life-long Republican, and is a member of W. C. Scott Post, No. 100, G. A. R.

JOSHUA HUNSAKER, a representative pioneer citizen and one of the leading farmers of Jackson township, residing on his well-improved farm of 45 acres, situated in section 12, was born June 19, 1848, in Hocking County, Ohio, and is a son of John and Catherine (Huffort) Hunsaker. The parents of Mr. Hunsaker were both natives of Fairfield County, Ohio. The family came from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where John Hunsaker, the great-grandfather, his wife and youngest child, were killed by the Indians at a very early day.

Joshua Hunsaker was reared in Hocking County and attended the district schools. In 1871 he came to Jackson township, Van Wert County, and here has spent the main portion of his life since that year. In 1895 he settled on his present farm which he has placed in a fine state of cultivation.

On January 3, 1872, Mr. Hunsaker was married to Catherine Tigner, who was born in Hocking County, Ohio, and is a daughter of John Tigner, a prominent old citizen of Hocking County. They have had five children, the three survivors being: Joshua D. and James, both of Delphos; and Louis, of Jackson township. The family belong to the old German Baptist Church, one of the early religious organizations of this township.

In politics, Mr. Hunsaker has always been a Democrat. Although he has taken an abid-

ing interest in township affairs, he has consented to hold office on but one occasion, serving for a short period as constable. He is a very highly respected citizen and has many friends throughout the township.



SAMUEL B. PRICE, one of the representative citizens and progressive farmers of Union township, the owner of a well-improved farm of 160 acres, situated in section 31, was born in Mills township, Coshocton County, Ohio, December 11, 1841, and is a son of John G. and Elizabeth (Barnes) Price.

The Price family can be traced far back in our country's annals. Its founder in America came from England, and a member of this branch of the family served during the Revolutionary War as an aid-de-camp to General Washington. While agriculture has been the family vocation for some generations, the military spirit has also appeared, our subject and a brother both serving in the Civil war. George W. Price, the paternal grandfather, reared his family in the State of New York and later accompanied some of them to Ohio. John G. Price, father of Samuel B., was born in Orange County, New York, and died in Ohio in 1865, aged 57 years. He married Elizabeth Barnes, who was born in Orange County, New York, and died in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, at the age of 48 years. Not much is obtainable concerning her family, as her parents died when she was small; but the tradition is that the family is of French extraction. The children of John G. and Elizabeth Price who reached maturity were: Mary, who married E. G. Taggart, of Delaware County, Ohio; Phoebe, deceased, who was the wife of Isaac Evans, of Peoria, Illinois; Samuel B., of this sketch; John E.; and Hattie, who married William

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MR. AND MRS. JOHN R. BIENTZ

Gray, of Hancock County. The life history of our subject's young brother, John E. Price, is a very sad one. When but a lad he enlisted for service in the Civil war and was discharged at Winchester, with typhoid fever. Naturally he hastened home, where he soon died, in spite of the family care given him. To add to the bereavement, the father, worn out with watching and anxiety, also succumbed to the same disease and died shortly after.

After his marriage and the birth of one child, in Orange County, New York, John G. Price and wife had moved to Coshocton County, Ohio, some time in the early '30's. He understood the blacksmithing business, but he devoted his attention to farming. In 1864, after the death of his wife, he removed to Van Wert County. He was a very earnest member of the Baptist Church, and a man who was held in esteem by all who knew him.

Samuel B. Price grew up on his father's farm, and attended school in Coshocton County. In September, 1861, in Tuscarawas County, he enlisted for service in the Civil war, entering Company E, 51st Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., under Captain Chalfin and Col. Stanley Mathews. At Nashville, Tennessee, Mr. Price was detailed as a provost guard. After a term of service lasting for eight months, he was discharged on account of disability, and he returned to Tuscarawas County. As soon as he had recovered he reenlisted, entering Company E, 161st Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served under Captain Cabel at Harper's Ferry, Manassas Junction and other places of danger. This enlistment was for three months and after it was over, he joined his father in Van Wert County.


The death of his brother John, which was so closely followed by that of his father, threw many responsibilities upon our subject, and entirely broke up the family home. He purchased

50 acres of woodland, and had partially cleared it when he had an opportunity to sell. He then bought his present farm, which contained but 80 acres at that time, with 30 or 40 acres cleared. Until prepared to do so, he did not erect a new residence, using the log cabin on the place; but in the course of time, he not only erected a commodious and comfortable home, but all the present substantial buildings, which make the place look thrifty and attractive. Mr. Price has almost all of his 160 acres under careful cultivation.

In 1873 Mr. Price was married to Almira Richie, who was born in Van Wert County, and is a daughter of Marlborough and Sarah (Eaton) Richie, natives of Crawford County, Ohio, who came here in 1840. Mr. and Mrs. Richie had these children: John, Horace, Walter, Olivia, Kate, Ruth and Almira.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Price were: Evan J., of Harrison township; Corwin R., of Geneva, Indiana; Ward W., the home farmer; Helen, wife of Clyde Richie, of Pleasant township; Mary, wife of Frank Richie, of Pleasant township; and Donald J., who was accidentally killed by being run over by a wagon, when 11 years of age. The surviving children are all married and doing well.

Politically Mr. Price is a Republican, and he has frequently held local offices. He has been school director for some 20 years, and he also served for a term as township trustee. He belongs to the Presbyterian Church at Convoy.

 OHN B. BIENTZ, whose death took place March 29, 1904, was for many years a prominent and well-known citizen of Liberty township, where he resided on a farm situated in section 33. At an early age he was left an orphan, and went to

live with his uncle, John Bientz, by whom he was practically reared and educated, and with whom he remained until he reached manhood. He then went to live with John Putman for the next six years, but remained in Van Wert County, where he passed his entire life, devoting his time and talents to agricultural pursuits.

On February 27, 1872, Mr. Bientz was married to Elixia Krick, a daughter of William and Sophia (Brouse) Krick, who were farmers and residents of Liberty township. Mrs. Bientz resides on a farm of 86 acres, upon which there are two houses—one of them being occupied by Mr. Putman, who is engaged in operating the farm for Mrs. Bientz. Mr. Bientz at one time owned 80 acres of land in Mercer County, which he sold, and later bought another tract of 40 acres in the same county, which Mrs. Bientz still retains and on which oil has been developed, there now being one well in operation. There is also one producing oil well on the farm where Mrs. Bientz lives. She has in all 126 acres of very fine productive farm land. She is a member of the Church of God, whose church building is situated on one acre of land, formerly part of the Bientz farm, which was sold to that denomination previous to the death of her husband. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Bientz accompany this sketch.

GEORGE F. STRAW, one of the energetic and progressive farmers of Liberty township, owner and operator of a valuable farm of 160 acres situated in section 35, was born in Wyandot County, Ohio, on October 28, 1873, and is a son of A. G. and Hilda (Clark) Straw, who are now residents of Van Wert.

A. G. Straw was for many years a prominent farmer of Liberty township, where he owned a fine tract of 217 acres and was engaged in agricultural pursuits. He has sold this land and is now living in retirement in Van Wert, enjoying a well-earned rest after many years of activity. He had four children, namely: Ella (Ball); George F., subject of this sketch; Clara (Smith), of Marion, Indiana; and Russell, who married Nancy Brown.

George F. Straw came to Van Wert County with his parents when a boy of 12 years and has since continued to make this locality his home, being reared on his father's farm in Liberty township, and passing his early years in such labors as he could perform and in obtaining an education in the district schools. In 1895 he was married to Emma Bowers, a daughter of B. F. Bowers, of Pleasant township, and they have had two children—Clarence, who died aged five years, and Alvin, born in 1898.

Mr. Straw's farm is a very valuable one. When he purchased the land on March 12, 1901, there were no fences, buildings or any improvements whatever; but in 1904 he erected a frame house and barn upon it, and in the five years he has lived on the place has cleared 80 acres of timberland, so that now he has a farm agriculturally equal to any in the township, and upon which are also located two producing oil-wells.

JOHAN W. PLUMLEY, mayor of the town of Convoy, has been a resident of Tully township since 1867, and of the town for a period of 14 years. He is a man of enterprise and public spirit, who has always been among the foremost in the development of the community. Mr. Plumley was

born in Muskingum County, Ohio, October 2, 1844, and is a son of Mahlon and Elizabeth (Hedges) Plumley.

Mahlon Plumley, who was a native of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, moved from there to Muskingum County, Ohio, where he died when our subject was young. His union with Elizabeth Hedges resulted in the birth of the following children: Nancy, widow of John Downey, living in Muskingum County, Ohio; Samuel, deceased; Elizabeth, deceased; Joseph Rice, deceased; John W.; Jesse, who resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana; Mary, wife of James Borden, living at McConnellsville, Ohio; Charles, who is farming in Morrow County, Ohio; and Laura, deceased wife of John Swank. Mrs. Plumley still resides on the old home place in Muskingum County, and although past 87 years of age retains the strength and mental vigor of a woman many years her junior.

John W. Plumley resided on the home place until 1864, when he enlisted in Company B, 122nd Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served until the close of the Civil war. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Monocacy by General Early's forces, at the time of their raid toward Washington. He was imprisoned at Lynchburg, then at Danville, and finally at Libby Prison—in all about nine months. A letter written by him while in Libby Prison to his mother is now a treasured possession of his, and although written with pencil can still be deciphered. He entered the army in the strength of young manhood and came out in very poor health, having suffered hardships and privations, from which he never fully recovered. Returning to Muskingum County, he remained there until 1867, when he came to Van Wert County, locating on a farm on the Ridge road in Tully township, which he still owns. He engaged in farming there until November 3,

1892, when he moved to the town of Convoy and engaged in the hardware business. He sold the business after a short time, and has since been engaged as a broker. His success as a business man has been won through the employment of honest and conservative methods. His business has frequently brought him in touch with people in dire financial straits, to whom he has loaned and given without expectation of earthly reward. Since January 1, 1906, when the First National Bank of Convoy was established, he has been a stockholder and director of the institution. When the bank issued its first bank notes, recently, Mr. Plumley received No. 1, a \$10 bill, which he keeps as a souvenir.

His popularity among his acquaintances and associates was duly attested by his nomination and election as mayor of Convoy. In the fall of 1905 he was nominated by the Republican party while he and his wife were away on a visit, and although he made no especial effort he was elected by a good majority in a Democratic stronghold. In the official discharge of his duties, he has not looked to making his office a paying one, but more to caring for the interests of the town, and settling disputes out of court, at the expense of losing his own fee.

In the fall of 1865, Mr. Plumley married Elizabeth West, of Morrow County, Ohio, who at her death left five children: James, born in Muskingum County, now living in Tully township, who married Effie Krick and has five children; Ora, wife of John Sponseller of Tully township and the mother of four children; Nellie, who married James A. Krick and has three children; Charles, who married Bertha Shultz, has four children and lives in Tully township; and Elizabeth, who married H. B. Leslie, lives in the outskirts of Convoy and has three children.

Our subject's second marriage was with Mary Whitcraft, a native of Hocking county. Mr. Plumley and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a member of Caper Porst, No. 136, G. A. R., of Convoy and also of the Odd Fellows lodge.

JACOB MOHR, one of the prominent residents of Van Wert, a member of a family of pioneer settlers in the State, was born February 25, 1838, at Baden, Germany, and is a son of Frederick and Catharine (Kuhn) Mohr.

The Mohr family came to America in 1849 and settled first in Richland County, Ohio; but in the following year they came to Van Wert County and settled in Hoaglin township. At that time the country was but sparsely settled and pioneer conditions prevailed. The parents were thrifty, industrious people, who accumulated property and reared their children comfortably. There are but two survivors of the latter, viz.: Jacob, our subject, and his brother Gottlieb. The father died in 1871 and the mother in 1869.

Jacob Mohr was reared on his father's farm and taught habits of honesty and industry. As occasion offered, he attended school; but there were few school advantages provided for children during his boyhood. Experience and reading, as well as contact with the world, have made Mr. Mohr, however, a well-informed man. He continued to live in Hoaglin township, until April, 1902, when he removed to Van Wert, where he has lived ever since in his comfortable home at No. 708 North Washington street.

Mr. Mohr was married (first) February, 1864, to Martha Hattery, who was a daughter of Josiah Hattery, late of Pleasant township,

and an early settler of Van Wert County. The widow of Josiah Hattery still survives, now over 83 years of age, and resides in Van Wert County. She is one of the few surviving pioneer women of this locality, coming here when the whole country was wooded, with scarcely a road made or clearing cut. By this marriage Mr. Mohr had three children, viz.: John A., of Paulding, Ohio; Joseph E., of Union township; and Elizabeth E., wife of Louis Holtrey, of Hoaglin township. Mrs. Mohr died October 2, 1898. Mr. Mohr was married (second) in April, 1902, to Mrs. Mary A. Yager, widow of William Yager, formerly of Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. Mohr was born in Allen County, Indiana, August 2, 1853, and is a daughter of Jacob and Magdalena Laymen, early settlers in Indiana. By her first marriage Mrs. Mohr had three children, viz.: Emma, wife of Lester Brook, of Chicago; Magdalena, of Chicago; and Inez, also of Chicago.

Mr. Mohr still retains his fine farm of 240 acres of well-improved land in Hoaglin township, which, under rental, brings him in a nice income. He has always been an enterprising, public-spirited man, and during a long and busy life has laid up an ample fortune for old age. Politically he is a Republican, and while living in the country he served as trustee of Hoaglin township. He is a member of the Evangelical Association.

JOSEPH P. KUNTZ, one of the leading business men of Ohio City, who is secretary and manager of the Ohio City Lumber Company, was born at Greenville, Darke County, Ohio, in 1873, and is a son of Nicholas Kuntz, formerly a large lumber dealer, who now lives retired at Greenville.

Joseph P. Kuntz was reared and educated in Darke County, and has been identified with lumber interests ever since the beginning of his business career. After leaving school he kept books for his father for two years, and then took the position of head sawyer in the mill at Greenville, holding the same for four years. In 1894 he came to Ohio City, and in association with his brother established the N. J. Kuntz Lumber Company. Six months later our subject was called to Van Wert to take charge of the machinery in the wood department of the Cincinnati Northern Railroad car shops. He remained in charge here for six years and then returned to Ohio City and was engaged with his brother Nicholas J. for four months. He and his brother then bought out the Charles Gay Lumber Company at Lewisburg, Ohio, and our subject was in charge of that plant one year and four months.

When the Ohio City Lumber Company was incorporated, with a capital stock of \$5,000, Mr. Kuntz became a member of the board of directors and its secretary and manager. He has been a resident of Ohio City since January, 1904.

In May, 1903, Mr. Kuntz was married to Florence A. Gilliland, who is a daughter of Edward B. Gilliland, a large implement dealer at Van Wert. Mr. Kuntz is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church.



DAVID DAVIS, M. D., the oldest physician and surgeon in continuous practice in the village of Venedocia, was born in 1858 in Jackson County, Ohio, and is a son of Morgan and Mary (Davis) Davis.

The father of Dr. Davis died in 1870; but his venerable mother still survives and still

resides in her pioneer home in Madison township, Jackson County, Ohio. She was born in 1816, in Delaware County, Ohio, a daughter of John Davis, and is probably the oldest lady of Welsh extraction, born in the State of Ohio. She is the oldest member of the old Moriah Welsh Calvinistic Church, where she still regularly attends service, enjoying the half-mile walk to and from church, up and down hill, with the same vigor as she did 40 years ago. Mrs. Davis has lived through a remarkable period of the world's history, and, although her life has been spent within somewhat narrow territorial limits, it has been none the less interesting.

Mrs. Davis was one of a family of three daughters and two sons born to her parents. All reached maturity, formed domestic ties of their own, and all except herself have passed on to the other shore, leaving representatives behind them. Her birth took place on Christmas Day, in her father's pioneer cabin, which stood near the present site of Radnor station, surrounded by dense woods. There she grew to young womanhood, witnessing many changes. For many years wolves were still so numerous that they surrounded the cabin at night and carried off all provisions not carefully hidden away. Indians also were frequent visitors. Their language she could never understand; but as they usually wanted to be fed, she wisely permitted them to help themselves from her larder and, never suffered in any way. They roamed up and down the surrounding forests and almost trackless swamps, lands which she has seen redeemed and transformed into fruitful fields.

In the days of her girlhood Mrs. Davis was taught all the frugal ways of housekeeping of her day, and expended time and patience in learning the mysteries of spinning and weaving. She can easily recall how important was

the growing of flax, the careful sowing of the seed, its cultivation like oats, its beautiful blue flower, its careful cutting and drying. Every stage of its preparation is still recalled by this venerable lady whose busy, useful hands have fashioned numberless garments from the product of the seed she planted herself. On many occasions she has dropped corn down the long rows, and later cultivated it with a hoe. Mrs. Davis remembers when it was a serious matter to allow the kitchen fire to go out. Punk and tow would start it again; but there were occasions when a trip had to be made to the neighbors in order to procure a fresh supply, when accident had quenched the flame.

Mrs. Davis accompanied her parents in girlhood, from Delaware County to Van Wert County, the trip being made in a covered wagon, drawn by oxen. She was married in 1836, in Jackson County, Ohio, where she has lived ever since. She became the mother of 11 children, six of whom survive, namely: Sarah, who is the widow of David D. Evans, of Jackson County, and the mother of seven children; Ruth, who is the widow of William Redfern, of Shawnee, Ohio; Ellen, who is the wife of John W. Evans, of Jackson County, and has six children; Jonathan, who married Vrina Jones and has four children; David, the subject of this sketch; and Margaret, who lives with her venerable mother near Clay, in Jackson County. Mrs. Davis has 46 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren,

Mrs. Davis had but few educational advantages in her youthful days, attendance in a log school house covering but a few winter months. She was early taught to look upon religion with reverence, and was 14 years old when she made a profession, since which time she has faithfully and sincerely lived a Christian life. She was reared with the Chillon

family, noted Sunday-school workers. In the early years of her married life, before the church was built, which can be seen from her door, she was accustomed to ride on horseback to attend services, four miles distant, having one child strapped behind and another in front. In every way possible the life of this venerable lady is made comfortable. In the full possession of her faculties she is passing the evening of life, surrounded with comforts and tended with loving care, and when this long and worthy life has closed, there will remain memories of a noble, Christian woman whose influence has always been beneficent.

David Davis, the immediate subject of this sketch, was about 12 years old when his father died. The latter was born in Wales and had emigrated to America in 1828. His death occurred on his farm in 1870, his whole life having been an agricultural one. After the death of his father, our subject and his older brother, Jonathan, took charge of the homestead. The former continued to operate the farm for his mother until he was 21 years of age, when he began to teach school. Before this his educational opportunities had necessarily been restricted; but he subsequently attended the Rio Grande College and Morgan Brothers' Academy, at Oak Hill. In 1881 he entered the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati, where he was graduated three years later. He began to practice at Kieferville Putnam County, Ohio, where he remained four years, and then came to Venedocia. At that time the thriving village was but barely redeemed from the forest and swamp, and for the first years his professional visits through York and Jennings townships were necessarily made mainly on horseback, especially in the winter seasons. His practice at present is a large and lucrative one and is not confined to the village or the townships named.

Dr. Davis was united in marriage with Elizabeth Evans, who is the daughter of John W. Evans, a well-known pioneer. They have had four sons, all dying in infancy, except Morgan, named for his grandfather. Both Dr. Davis and wife are devout members of the Calvinistic Methodist Church, in which both were reared.

In political sentiment Dr. Davis is a Republican, but takes little more than a good citizen's interest in politics. He is a member of the board of pension examining surgeons for Van Wert County, and he belongs to the Ohio State Medical Eclectic Association. Fraternally he has been interested in the Knights of Pythias for many years, of which he is now chancellor commander and has been sent on occasion as a representative to the Grand Lodge.



CLINTON ALEXANDER HOGHE.

one of the most extensive farmers of Liberty township, who owns 180 acres of land situated in sections 2 and 3, was born in Liberty township, April 2, 1851, and is a son of Abraham and Eliza (Caldwell) Hoghe.

Abraham Hoghe was born near Schuylkill, Pennsylvania, where he was reared and educated. He subsequently moved to Franklin County, Ohio, and from there he moved to Van Wert County, when it was all a wilderness. He was one of the very earliest settlers of this county, and took a very active and prominent part in the development of this section. He traded for 80 acres of land, later bought 40 acres of canal land, and finally purchased from a relative another tract of 80 acres making in all 200 acres. Abraham Hoghe and his wife both died in Liberty township; the former at

the age of 80 years and the latter at the age of 77 years. They reared a family of eight children, as follows: Clement R., deceased at the age of 51; Elizabeth A. (Copeland), of Lima; Sarah (Custer); Clinton Alexander; Andrew, who died at the age of 19; Alice (Cooper); Irene (Vance); and Charles M., who died at the age of 35.

Clinton A. Hoghe was reared on his father's farm, and his education was such as could be obtained in a new and undeveloped country. On April 5, 1882, he married Alice B. Watt, a daughter of William and Margaret T. (Wilson) Watt. William Watt was born in Guernsey County, Ohio, and was a son of Joseph Watt, who was a native of Ireland. In the spring of 1865 he moved from Guernsey County to Van Wert County, and settled on a farm of 80 acres in Liberty township. He had a family of five children, of whom Mrs. Clinton A. Hoghe is the eldest. The others are as follows: Minnie F. (Hitchcock); Henry Grant, who died in September, 1902; Isabel (Bailey), of St. Louis; and William H., of Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoghe became the parents of four children: Hallie Alice; Earl Clinton; Ray who died in infancy; and William Guy. Mr. Hoghe has always been engaged in farming, and has one of the finest and most productive farms in the county. It is situated in sections 2 and 3, the tract of 100 acres in section 2 being the homestead. Mrs. Hoghe is a member of the Evangelical Church, and Mr. Hoghe, his two sons and daughter are all members of the Home Guards of America.

Clement R. Hoghe, Mr. Hoghe's oldest brother, was a soldier in the Civil war, being almost three years in the cavalry arm of the service. He was in many battles and skirmishes, had several horses shot from under him and was wounded several times.

JOHN A. CONN, who was identified with the business interests of Van Wert for many years, was born in Mansfield, Ohio, July 3, 1838, and died in Van Wert, December 25, 1905, being interred in Woodland Cemetery. He was a son of Andrew and Margaret (Patterson) Conn.

Andrew Conn was for a long period a very prominent citizen of Richland County, where he served as county treasurer. He was engaged there in a banking business. In 1855 he removed from Mansfield to Van Wert, and in 1860 he was elected treasurer of Van Wert County. After completing this public service he retired and his death took place in 1877. He was the father of seven children.

John A. Conn was educated in the public schools, both at Mansfield and Van Wert. He entered into business as a clerk in 1858 for his brother, Robert Conn, but in 1863, in association with a Mr. Scott, he embarked in a grocery business which was continued until 1874, when Mr. Conn withdrew in order to engage in a banking enterprise. He continued prominent in the financial life of Van Wert until 1895 when he again entered the grocery line and remained so connected until 1905. In this year he organized the firm of Conn & Son, in the fire, accident and plate glass insurance business. His long period of activity in business circles was marked with eminent success, brought about by his own ability combined with the qualities which preserved to him the confidence and regard of his fellow-citizens.

Mr. Conn was united in marriage with Ann F. Slade, daughter of Edward Slade, and they had a family of six children, as follows: Eugene R., a member of the insurance firm of Conn & Son, of Van Wert, who married Jennie Webster and has two sons—Donald and Robert; Luna M., deceased wife of William King,

also deceased, who left one child—John Howard, who resides with his grandmother, Mrs. John A. Conn; Miles, a member of the firm of Conn & Balyeat, grocers of Van Wert, who married Louisa Coleman and has two children—Frank and Leila; Robert, who resides in Van Wert, is married and has a son—Leonard; Myrtle, who married Arthur Fagan, of Van Wert, and has one son—Gareld; and Bessie, who is single and lives with her mother. The family home is situated at No. 716 Washington street. Mrs. Conn is a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Van Wert, as was her husband. Mr. Conn was an advocate of the free coinage of silver.

GEORGE MILLER, owner and operator of a farm situated in section 35, Liberty township, was born in Dublin township, Mercer County, Ohio, on October 20, 1840, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Shetterly) Miller.

Henry Miller was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and was a son of Peter Miller, a native of Germany and a millwright by trade, who died in Fairfield County. Henry Miller, father of George Miller, was reared in Fairfield County, but was married in Clermont County, to Elizabeth Shetterly. She was a daughter of Philip Shetterly, a prominent German farmer of Clermont County, who at one time, with his two brothers, owned a great deal of land where Cincinnati now stands, and which they traded for two farms of 160 acres each in Clermont County and one farm in Indiana. After his marriage, Henry Miller moved to Mercer County and located in Rockford for a time, subsequently settling on a farm of 80 acres which he owned. He at one time owned a farm in Liberty township, Van Wert County.

just west of where Ohio City now stands. This he traded for his farm in Mercer County, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was the father of eight children, of whom George was the third. He died May 14, 1892, and his wife died December 23, 1891.

George Miller was reared and educated in Mercer County and in 1860 was married to Margaret Keffer, a daughter of Adam and Bertha (Jarvis) Keffer. Mrs. Miller was born in Pennsylvania, where her parents were both born and raised. They later moved to Tuscarawas County, Ohio, and passed the remainder of their days, Mrs. Keffer dying in 1843 and Mr. Keffer in 1874.

After his marriage, George Miller moved to his farm of 80 acres in Liberty township, where he has since lived. He first occupied a log house for many years, and in 1894 erected his present large frame house. To Mr. and Mrs. Miller were born nine children: Emeline, who married William Rickard and died at the age of 42, leaving two children—Cora and Mabel; Mary, who married Amos Rickard, lives on her father's farm and has two children—Sherman and Homer; Thomas, living in Mercer County, who married Alverta Clouse and has four children—Clella, Norma, Clayton and Garret (deceased); Alba, who married William Edwards, of Van Wert, and died at the age of 31 years; Lewis, who married Sylvia Rousch, lives in Liberty township, and has three children—Ottis, Gladys and Margaret; Elizabeth, who married Loren Loro, lives in Mercer County and has one child—Elva; Nellie and Della (twins), the former deceased at the age of 21 years and the latter at the age of 18; Henry, the fourth child in order of birth, who died at the age of four years and seven months.

Mr. Miller is a Republican, and was elected by that party to serve two terms as township trustee; he was also supervisor of the township.

He is a member and a director of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which his wife is also a member. He was one of the building committee at the time of the erection of the present church, subsequent to the burning of the old church.

PETER WITTEN, who owns a fine farm of 80 acres in Liberty township, has lived retired in Ohio City for the past year, where he enjoys the acquaintance and respect of many of his fellow-citizens. Mr. Witten was born in Guernsey County, Ohio, April 3, 1842, and is a son of Philip and Rebecca (Jackson) Witten.

The father of our subject was born in Virginia, but was brought in infancy to Guernsey County, Ohio, where his whole life was spent in agricultural pursuits. He married Rebecca Jackson, and they had eight children, the survivors being: Thomas T., Samuel, Peter and William, two of whom served in the Civil war.

Peter Witten came to Van Wert County in 1859, and completed his education here. He followed farming until 1864, when he enlisted for service in the Civil war and served 100 days in Company H, 139th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., at Point Lookout, Maryland, and then reenlisted in Company A, 41st Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., which was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee. This regiment was used to guard the railroad from Nashville to Chattanooga and Atlanta, was then sent to Pulaski, and later took part in the battles of Franklin and Nashville. The regiment was kept in almost constant activity in and around Nashville until our subject received his honorable discharge there and returned home in 1865.

After the close of his army service, Mr. Witten resumed farming in Liberty township.

Van Wert County, acquiring a valuable farm of 80 acres, on which he resided until he retired from active life. In addition to farming he ran a blacksmith shop for 30 years, and became not only one of the best-known residents of Liberty township, but one of the most substantial.

December 25, 1869, Mr. Witten was married to Thirza K. Welch, who is a daughter of Dennis and Aseneth (Roberts) Welch, who settled in Liberty township in 1853. Mr. and Mrs. Welch had seven children, three of whom died young, and the survivors are: Asenath Elizabeth, wife of H. G. Stemen, of Delphos, Ohio, and Mrs. Witten.

Mr. and Mrs. Witten have two children, viz: Otto and James. The latter is a farmer in Van Wert County. The former is a civil engineer at Celina, Ohio. He was graduated in civil engineering from the Ohio Normal University at Ada, in the class of 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Witten are valued members of the Church of God at Ohio City.



W. JOHANTGEN, the leading hardware merchant and agricultural implement dealer at Ohio City, was born in Ridge township in 1877, and is a son of John Johantgen.

The father of our subject has been a retired resident of Van Wert for some four years. For many years he was a successful farmer, having settled in Ridge township, Van Wert County, in 1870.

H. W. Johantgen was reared and educated in Ridge township until young manhood, when he attended the Tri-State Normal College at Angola, Indiana. Mr. Johantgen then began teaching school, a profession he followed for some years, during which period he was princi-

pal of the Mill Shoals school in Illinois for two years. For one year he operated the McWilliams elevator at Van Wert, and for three years was with the Kauke & Alspach hardware firm in the same city.

In October, 1904, Mr. Johantgen came to Ohio City and erected here a fine two-story brick building, 28 by 104 feet in dimension, in which he has placed the finest stock of hardware to be found in Van Wert County. His stock is as complete as can be found anywhere, and his trade connections are such that he can procure special patterns of all kinds of hardware for any purpose. He also is a large dealer in farm implements.

In 1901 Mr. Johantgen was married to Laura Gilliland, who is a daughter of Shaffner M. Gilliland, of Ridge township, a member of one of the most prominent families of this section. They have one little daughter, whom they have named Mildred.



REV. AMOS W. BUCHER. The death of the Rev. Amos W. Bucher, which took place September 3, 1898, when nearing his 75th year, removed from Hoaglin township one of its representative men and pioneers. Mr. Bucher was born in Pennsylvania, in 1823, and was a son of Peter and Elizabeth Bucher.

Our subject was a child of six years when his parents removed from Pennsylvania to Richland County, Ohio, where he grew to manhood. Like all farmer's sons, he was trained in agricultural pursuits; but unlike many, he also learned a trade, and for some years he worked at saddle and harnessmaking. Subsequently he settled down to farming in Richland County, removing during the period of the Civil war to Van Wert County, and be-

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MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH ROYER

cating on the farm of 80 acres on which his widow still resides. This well cultivated land was then all brush and heavy timber, and it was through the energy and industry of Mr. Bucher that it was developed into one of the best farms in Hoaglin township.

Mr. Bucher proved an excellent agriculturist, although his attention was not exclusively given to his land, for he was, for many years, a local minister in the United Brethren Church. This brought with it many duties, and all through the township there are people who remember his kindness in times of affliction, his advice and his helpfulness in neighborly ways. His life was one of exemplary living and of great usefulness.

On December 23, 1847, Mr. Bucher was married to Rebecca Kaufman, who was born December 17, 1826, in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. She is a daughter of Henry and Catherine Kaufman, who moved to Holmes County, Ohio, when she was about one year old. They resided there a number of years and then went to Wayne County and later to Richland County, where their daughter Rebecca married Amos W. Bucher. There were eight children born to Rev. Amos W. Bucher and wife, namely: Henry P., of Hoaglin township; Joseph O., of Crawford County, Ohio; Mary E., wife of Jacob Keith, of Hoaglin township; Sarah C., deceased; John F., of Van Wert County; Amos B., of Paulding County, Ohio; Levi W., of Canada, and Daniel W., of Hoaglin township. Rev. Henry P. Bucher, the eldest son, is one of the well-known citizens and esteemed ministers of Hoaglin township, serving in the United Brethren Church, where he is noted for his piety and Christian earnestness. His venerable mother still survives, and is a beloved member of a community in which she has lived so long.



JOSEPH ROYER, one of the pioneers of Liberty township, who occupies a well-developed farm of 77 acres in section 21, was born in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, December 25, 1824, and is a son of Jacob and Polly (Hoiburn) Royer, natives of Pennsylvania.


Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Royer had two children—Juda, who died when 17 years of age and Joseph, of this sketch. Mr. Royer died when Joseph was an infant, and his widow afterward married a Mr. Smith, moving to New York State, where her second husband died in 1833. Mr. and Mrs. Smith had one daughter.

Joseph Royer was reared to maturity in New York State and when 19 years of age removed to Medina County, Ohio, where, on May 27, 1851, he was married to Maria Rousch. They became the parents of 10 children, five of whom are deceased. The record is as follows: Joseph, who died at the age of 11; and John Henry, at the age of 10 years; Israel, who married and lives on a farm in Mercer County; Catherine, wife of Hiram H. Wegley, of Lima, Ohio; Sarah, wife of George Butler, of Lima; George, unmarried, who is at home; William T. Sherman, who also lives at home; Mary Elizabeth, who died aged two years; Samuel, at the age of 18 months, and Lenora, at about five years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Royer have now been married 55 years and are two of the oldest and most honored inhabitants of Liberty township, being steadfast members of the Lutheran Church. Their portraits accompany this sketch.

On Oct. 12, 1851, Mr. Royer moved from Medina County to Van Wert County and settled in Willshire township. After remaining there four and a half years, he bought a farm of 40 acres in Liberty township, and lived there a little over four years, finally moving to his

present location which has since been his home.

In 1862 Mr. Royer enlisted in Company A, 99th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served during the rest of the war. He was in the battle at Stone River and was standing near Capt. W. C. Scott when the latter was killed. After this engagement, he was sick for nearly a year. At the close of the war, he returned home and resumed farming again, having passed the intervening years in the cultivation and improvement of his farm.

ON. EDWARD B. GILLILAND, of Van Wert, is too well known in Van Wert County to need an introduction to our readers, as he has been prominently before the public as one of the ablest and best legislators ever sent from this district to the State Legislature. He was born in Van Wert County, April 10, 1846, and is a son of Thomas and Katherine (McCann) Gilliland, former prominent residents of this county.


Thomas Gilliland was born in Maryland, on October 22, 1806, and was there married to Catherine McCann, who was also a native of Maryland and was born December 11, 1809. In 1835, with their two children, William and Martha, they came to Van Wert County and located in Ridge township, where they entered a quarter section of land which forms part of the present holding of our subject. Thomas Gilliland prospered in his farming operations, and eventually added 320 acres to his first tract, making him one of the largest land-owners in the county. He took an active interest in all that pertained to the welfare of the public, and for 15 years was justice of the peace, discharging the duties devolving upon him in a fearless and decisive manner, which caused him to be a terror to evil-doers. He

was still holding that office when death overtook him, July 28, 1857, in the very prime of life. He was laid to rest in the Van Wert Cemetery by the Masonic fraternity, of which he was an honored member; but his noble life and example were an influence for good which has continued to live in the hearts of his fellow-men and has borne fruit a hundred fold. His wife survived him many years, passing away November 13, 1888. They were the parents of a large family of children, namely: Martha, who became the wife of Ira Cavett; William, deceased; Mary Jane, deceased wife of G. C. Weible; Sarah Ann, who married D. M. Conroy; John Francis, deceased; Robert A. Webster, deceased; James Maxwell, a resident of Van Wert; Edward B.; Ellen and Elizabeth, both deceased; Henrietta C., wife of Allen Lown, of Van Wert; and Thomas Hiram, deceased.

Edward B. Gilliland spent his early years very much as other boys of his day. He attended district school, helped with the farm work at home and, being of a studious and retentive character, stored his mind with a fund of useful knowledge. He was a school teacher for about six years and became such a close student of mankind that he seldom makes a mistake in reading the character of those he meets. He is a farmer by choice, and has been very successful. He now owns 206 acres of valuable farm property, in addition to considerable real estate in the city of Van Wert.

He was nominated for the State Legislature by the Democratic party and received a flattering majority in a district that had always given about 200 majority to the Republicans. He served on several important committees, being one of the committee on ways and means, on agriculture and on the insane asylum, and looked after the interests of his constituents in a manner that was highly gratifying to them.

Mr. Gilliland was united in marriage to Mary Jane Collins, by whom he has a family of seven children, viz: Florence, Daisy, Thomas, Grace (deceased), Myrtle, Edna May (deceased), and Edith. The family are members of the Catholic Church and are among the most prominent and highly respected people in the county.

ILLIAM CUNNINGHAM, a very prominent farmer of Liberty township, owner of 80 acres of valuable farm land in Willshire township, and half owner with his son George of 71 acres in section 16, Liberty township, was born in Coshocton County, Ohio, April 16, 1830. He is a son of John Cunningham, a native of Brooke County, Virginia, and a grandson of William Cunningham.

William Cunningham, the grandfather, was one of the original contractors for the Ohio Canal, his section being situated at Newark, Ohio. He died before he had completed this contract, which was finished by his son John, the father of our subject.

William Cunningham, our subject, was reared and educated in Coshocton County, Ohio. He was married on June 24, 1858, to Margaret Gault, a daughter of Adam and Sarah (Miller) Gault. Adam Gault was a native of Pennsylvania, and came to Coshocton County with his father, who settled on a farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham have had four children, as follows: George, the only son, born December 3, 1859, who lives on the home place, of which he is half owner; Anna B. (Foor), who lives in Willshire township, and is the mother of eight children; Sarah E., who died at the age of eight years; and Terzah Olga, who lives at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham came to Van Wert County from Coshocton County in 1867, and settled on a farm of 80 acres in Willshire township, which they still own. Here they lived until 1891, when they bought a farm of 71 acres in Liberty township, and have since made their home on this farm.

Mr. Cunningham, while living in Coshocton County, served as township clerk, and has served as township trustee several terms in Willshire township. His son George has served as township assessor in Liberty township. Fraternally, he is a member of the Patrons of Husbandry.



E. YOUNG, a prominent citizen of Delphos, and an extensive dealer in flour, grain, seed, hay, etc., has elevators at different points, but maintains offices in this city. Mr. Young was born in Wayne County, Ohio, July 12, 1856, and is a son of Aaron and Lucinda (McAninch) Young, old residents of that county. The five children born to our subject's parents were as follows: J. W., of Kenton, Ohio; Amanda (Mrs. William Lindsay), of Forest, Ohio; Belle, who married Rev. William Seuman, and died in 1884; T. M., of Forest; and C. E.

C. E. Young spent the greater part of his life at Forest, Ohio, where he became car inspector for the Pennsylvania Railroad soon after leaving school. In 1874 he was promoted to the position of baggage agent at Forest, and held that post for 12 years. While still in this office he became a partner of William Lindsay, his brother-in-law, in the lumber and hay business, and in 1885, four years afterwards, the grain business was added and an elevator built. This enterprise proved to be a profitable one.

and the business grew to such proportions that in 1887 Mr. Young resigned as baggage agent and devoted his entire time to the lumber, hay and grain business. In 1893 the firm was dissolved, and Mr. Young has since engaged in the hay and grain business alone, with the most flattering success. In 1901 he moved to Delphos, where he has since maintained his office and keeps a careful oversight over the business at various points. In 1902 he purchased the old creamery building in Landeck, which was used for handling grain; but the business has grown to such proportions that it is necessary to have greater accommodations; hence Mr. Young is at present constructing a modern, up-to-date elevator plant at this point.

Mr. Young was married in 1883 to Naomi Briggs, daughter of M. B. Briggs, of Forest. Two children, Ted and Gladys, have blessed their union. Mr. and Mrs. Young are members of Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church of Delphos, and Mr. Young is a member of the board of trustees. He is also a member of the Masonic order.



DAVID K. OLNEY. In the death of David K. Olney, which occurred at the beautiful home of his parents, on South Washington street, Van Wert, this city lost one of its most promising young business men and one whose personal friends were limited only by those who had come within the circle of his acquaintance.

David K. Olney was born in Van Wert, Ohio, July 2, 1881, and passed away on November 5, 1905, at the early age of 24 years. He was a beloved member of a family of four children born to his parents, Hugh V. and Sarah O. (Harvey) Olney. His liberal education was pursued in the schools of his native city and completed at Ohio Wesleyan

University, at Delaware. At Van Wert, on February 1, 1905, he entered into business life as a member of the well-known firm of Feldner, Olney & Richards, a house which stands very high in commercial circles. The few months which intervened prior to his sudden and fatal illness proved his business capacity and convinced his friends that, like his father, he would soon have taken a very prominent place in the affairs of the city. He displayed keen business judgment, but always recognized the underlying principles of commercial life—the honesty and integrity which form the foundation upon which all reputable business is built—and, at the same time, possessed those qualities which made him friends wherever he went.

Mr. Olney was popular, and deservedly so. He was kind, courteous, generous, forgiving, was enthusiastically in favor of those things which stood for the right, and was ever ready to oppose dishonesty or any kind of meanness. Those who knew him best acknowledged his personal magnetism—a faculty which drew men to him and retained their confidence, admiration and affection. He was unselfish in his desires, and the most loyal of friends. Fraternally he was an active Mason. Preparing to take his part in public affairs, he had identified himself with the Republican party, and with intelligence had studied the questions of the hour. He was a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

As age comes on apace, with its dimmed vision and halting step, life fortunately loses many of its allurements, but sad it is to see the passing of one to whom life's treasures were only being fairly revealed. Although he has gone so early from the visible life, he so lived his few years that the deepest grief of those left behind can be softened by many tender recollections.

JOHN YOH, a representative agriculturist of Hoaglin township, and one of its best-known citizens, resides on his valuable farm of 250 acres, which is located in section 9. He was born in Seneca County, Ohio, January 30, 1842, and is a son of Jacob and Sarah Yoh.

Both parents of our subject were natives of Pennsylvania, and they had resided for a number of years in Seneca County, Ohio, before they came to Van Wert, in 1852. Jacob Yoh resided on his farm in Hoaglin township until his death on March 29, 1865. His wife survived him a few years. Their surviving children are: John, Benjamin, George C., and Mathew, all residents of Van Wert County. The children who have passed away were: Amos, a brave soldier in the Civil war, who gave up his young life on the bloody field of Shiloh; Jacob, who died in 1885; Jonas, who died in 1903; and Sarah and Mary.

John Yoh was 10 years old when his parents settled in Hoaglin township, where he grew to maturity and attended the pioneer schools. Counting in years it does not seem so long since the days when Mr. Yoh went to school here; but counting in improvements, it is a long, long time. The little log school-houses with their primitive fittings have long since given way to the neat, attractive and comfortable buildings, in which the children of farmers can enjoy just as many advantages as those who go to school in towns and cities. Mr. Yoh has done his part in advancing the educational interests of his community, and is justly considered one of its useful men. He owns a large amount of land, and has almost all of it under a fine state of cultivation, having come here in 1871.

On March 5, 1871, Mr. Yoh was married to Catherine Mohr, who was born here June 10, 1851, and is a daughter of Charles Mohr,

one of the township's earliest settlers. Mr. and Mrs. Yoh have these children: Curtis V., born March 8, 1878; Allie L., born January 28, 1881, wife of A. A. Jenkins, of Hoaglin township; Charles Wilbur, born May 7, 1883; and Joseph E., born October 28, 1886.

In political sentiment, Mr. Yoh is a staunch Republican. He is one of the efficient turnpike commissioners, and is secretary of two local boards of commissioners who superintend the construction of the turnpike roads in this district. The road running north and south along our subject's farm is called the "Yoh Pike No. 33," he being the main promoter of this valuable public improvement. He is a member of and one of the trustees of the Grand Victory Evangelical Church, in Hoaglin township.


THOMAS BARNES, a representative agriculturist and well-known citizen of Jackson township, whose well-cultivated farm of 80 acres is situated on the turnpike road that runs north and south through the township, was born January 26, 1848, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is a son of William and Christina (Wood) Barnes. The parents of Mr. Barnes were natives of England, coming to America about 1845, and Thomas was about three years old when they settled in Ohio.

Thomas Barnes is a self-made man, having enjoyed few advantages except those gained by his own efforts. For some years his schooling consisted of a few months during the winters, his summers being occupied with farm work for his father and others. In young manhood he established a reputation for industry and honesty throughout Pickaway County. On February 28, 1869, he was married to Amy A. Durham, the estimable daughter of Isaac and

Elizabeth (Roland) Durham. Mrs. Barnes was born March 4, 1847, in Pickaway County, Ohio, and is a member of one of the old pioneer families; her only sister, Mrs. Jennie Kemp, is a resident of Jackson township, Van Wert County. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes have three children, namely: John, a resident of Paulding County, Ohio; Elizabeth, wife of G. F. Snyder, of Jackson township; and Alvin C., also a resident of Paulding County.

After his marriage Mr. Barnes worked in Pickaway County for a time by the month, and then rented a farm in the county named, and, later, one in Madison County. He operated the later for some years and then returned to Pickaway County. In 1886 he settled on his present place. He has made all the improvements here, cleared all the land and converted a wild timber tract into a well-cultivated, attractive and productive farm. He formerly owned 280 acres, but has decreased his estate by gifts to his children.


In political sentiment, Mr. Barnes is a Republican, but he has never been willing to take upon himself the cares of office. He has, however, always done his part in supporting schools and public improvements, and was one of the promoters of the excellent turnpike road through Jackson township.

ON RICHARDS, one of Van Wert's prominent men of business, and a member of the well-known clothing firm of Feldner, Olney & Richards, was born October 1, 1871, on his father's farm in Van Wert County, and is one of two children born to his parents—A. B. and E. (Warren) Richards.

Mr. Richards was reared and educated in Van Wert County and left school to go into

the mercantile business. After a training of 17 years in this field, during which time he mastered every detail, in 1905 he became a member of the firm of Feldner, Olney & Richards, proprietors of one of the largest establishments in this city. The firm is well and widely known throughout the county and has secured a large part of the best patronage.

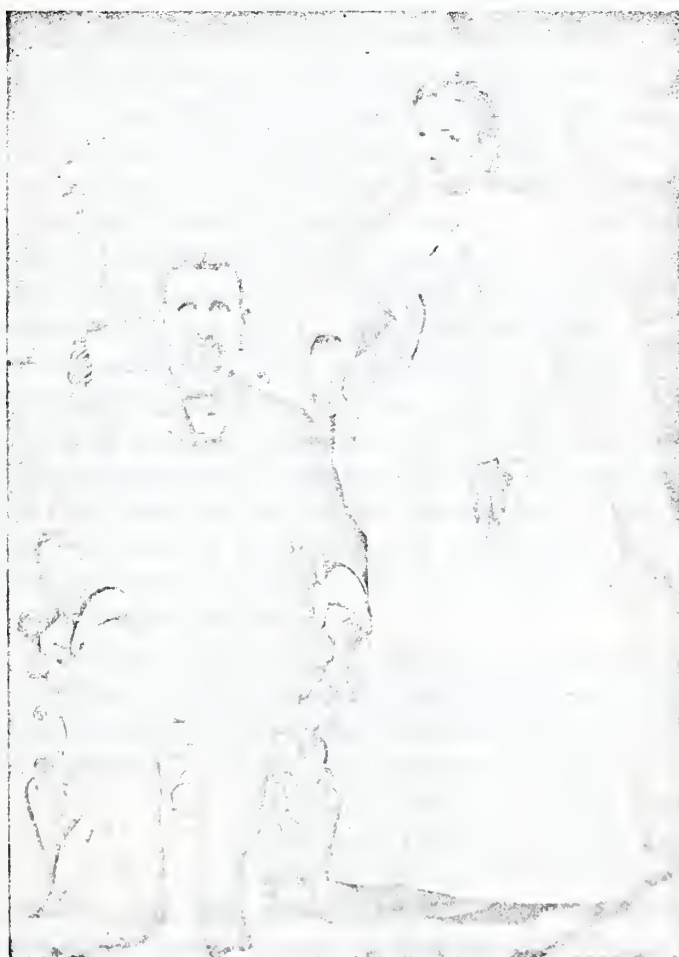
Mr. Richards was married to Frieda Bolz, and they have two children. The pleasant and hospitable family home is located at No. 303 Harrison street. In his political affiliation Mr. Richards is a Republican, but he takes no active interest in politics. Fraternally he is a Knight of Pythias.

EMUEL J. RUTLEDGE, postmaster, and one of the enterprising and successful business men of Dull, an extensive dealer in general merchandise, is a native of Ohio, and was born February 8, 1868, in Mercer County. He is a son of John and Mary (Robinson) Rutledge.

John Rutledge was born in Licking County, Ohio, a son of Thomas Rutledge, but lived a great many years in Perry County. He was the father of eight children, namely: Annie, who died at the age of two years; H. F., who lives on the old home farm in Mercer County; Lemuel J., the subject of this sketch; Nettie, wife of Dr. Kannel, a prominent physician of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Elizabeth, who married Emanuel Williams and is now deceased; Adelia, who married Emanuel Williams after the death of her sister Elizabeth, and lives in Mercer County; Ora, the wife of Howard Purdy, of Mercer County; and James, who married Emma Teeple and lives at Rockwell, Mercer County.

Lemuel J. Rutledge was reared and educated in Mercer County, Ohio, and in 1893

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MR. AND MRS. J. A. GERDEMAN

was married to Dora Smith, a daughter of Samuel Smith of Van Wert County. They have had five children; Leota Fern; Mary Ethel; Grace Lucile, who died January 16, 1903, aged four years; Hannah Beatrice and John Merritt.

After his marriage, Mr. Rutledge was engaged in agricultural pursuits in Black Creek township, Mercer County for seven years. He then sold his farm and moved to Van Wert County, where he purchased and located on a farm of 71 acres in Liberty township. Here he remained four years, when he sold his farm and moved into Dull. On January 16, 1904, he bought from J. F. Tickle & Company the store which he has since successfully managed. He made many needed improvements in the store and carries a complete line of general merchandise. He has one of the most up-to-date stores in Liberty township, and has won an enviable reputation among his patrons, through the employment of honest and conservative business methods. Mr. Rutledge also owns his residence property, which adjoins his place of business. He is a member of the United Brethren Church and fraternally is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees.

JA. GERDEMAN, residing on his well tilled farm of 160 acres located in section 33, Washington township, has established an enviable reputation as a breeder of fine horses and is a member of the executive committee of the Van Wert County Agricultural Society. He was born in Delphos, Ohio, being the only child of Henry Joseph and Deima (King) Gerdeman.

Henry J. Gerdeman, the father, was born December 18, 1820, in Hanover, Germany, and there was reared, educated and engaged

in farming, continuing in that avocation until he emigrated to America in 1840. Landing at New York, he located in Glandori, Putnam County, Ohio, making his home with his brother and brother-in-law, and remaining there until 1845, during which time he worked on the Miami and Erie Canal. His wife, the mother of our subject, died when J. A. Gerdeman was but nine months old. In 1845 the father moved to Delphos, where for 15 years he worked in a sawmill with a Mr. Martin. In the meantime he had purchased a farm of 160 acres and in 1860 moved upon his land. Henry J. Gerdeman's second marriage was with Mary Moennig, of Delphos, and they had seven sons, all living—Henry C.; Fred, John, William, Frank, Sylvester and Theodore. At the time of the father's death, December 16, 1903, he was the largest landowner in Washington township, having at that time 640 acres of land in a high state of cultivation. His widow died November 14, 1905.

J. A. Gerdeman, the subject of this sketch, was reared in Washington township, received his education in the schools of the vicinity and in 1877 married Theressa Longmeir, by whom he had six children; Anna, who married Louis Lause and has one child—Edward; Edward; Louis; Arnold; Elizabeth and Frederick. Mrs. Theressa Gerdeman died in the spring of 1895 and Mr. Gerdeman was again married in 1900, to Louisa Ebener, who was born in Germany and came to America alone at the age of 16 years. The family are all members of St. John's Catholic Church at Delphos. Mr. Gerdeman is now serving his seventh year as director of the German Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of Delphos; is prominent in the expansion of the livestock and agricultural interests of Van Wert County, and an able, substantial citizen of pro-

gressive tendencies in every direction. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Gerdeman accompany this sketch.



F. KOCH, proprietor of the leading dry goods store at Ohio City, and one of the well-known, substantial citizens, was born in Liberty township, Van Wert County, Ohio, in 1869, and is a son of John H. Koch, Sr. The father of our subject, like his ancestors, was born in Hanover, Germany. In 1853 he emigrated to America and settled for some years at Cleveland, Ohio. In 1860 he located in Van Wert County. The rest of his life was spent in clearing up a farm and in working at his trade of shoemaker. He died in 1888.

C. F. Koch was reared on his father's farm in Liberty township, and attended the common schools and later prepared for teaching at the Western Ohio Normal School at Middlepoint. Following this he taught school for two years, and then located in Ohio City to embark in business. He became a member of the mercantile firm of Mathew, Koch & Company, and one year later he succeeded the firm, since which time he has conducted a large business alone. In point of service he is the oldest general merchant in the city. His very complete stock includes dry goods, clothing, boots, shoes and furnishing goods.

In 1892 Mr. Koch was married to Luella Bevington, who was born in York township, Van Wert County, and was a daughter of John Bevington. She died in 1901, leaving three children, Gwyn, Bynon and Lile. In 1902 Mr. Koch was married (second) to Carrie Robinson, who is a daughter of Robert Robinson, formerly of Van Wert County, now of Michigan.

Mr. Koch has always been a prominent and

reliable citizen. In Liberty township he served five years as treasurer, and since coming to Ohio City has served on the council, and at present is a member of the Board of Education. He is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, has been a member of its board of trustees for some years, and for six years was superintendent of the Sunday-school. Fraternally he belongs to the Odd Fellows and the Maccabees at Ohio City.



HENRY FLAGER, township trustee, and owner of 120 acres of valuable farm land in Liberty township, 80 acres being situated in section 16 and 40 acres in section 14, was born in this township, on February 29, 1848. His parents were Adam and Margaret Flager.

Adam Flager and his wife were both natives of Germany. He came to this country at the age of 21 and first settled in New York State, where he was married. Later he moved to Pennsylvania, and thence to Allen County, Ohio, where he bought a small lot of land, the first piece of property he ever owned. After living there a short time, he moved to Van Wert County, where he entered 80 acres of land in 1832. He was one of the oldest pioneers of this county, when the land was all a wilderness. He built in one day a little shanty in which the family lived for many years, later erecting a house of hewn logs. Our subject, Henry Flager, was born in the first little shanty, and when he was about 16 years of age his father built a frame house, which was the only one for miles around. Mr. and Mrs. Adam Flager reared a family of six children. She still survives her husband, who died in July, 1882.


Henry Flager was reared in Liberty town-

ship, and received such schooling as could be obtained in his youth. On January 23, 1873, he was married to Rosanna Harp, a daughter of Jonas and Mary Harp. Jonas Harp was born in Pennsylvania, and later moved to Liberty township, where he was engaged in farming. At the time of his death in 1861 he owned 160 acres of land, 80 acres being in Liberty township and 80 acres in York. Mrs. Harp died in March, 1902.

Mr. and Mrs. Flager became the parents of three children: Margaret Alice, who married C. E. North, lives on the home farm in an adjoining house and has two children—Russel C. and Flo J.; Jennie, who married (first) Oscar Robinson, who died in 1901, and (second) Archer Russell in 1904; and Basil Henry, who lives at home.

Henry Flager bought from his father the 80 acres of land on which he now lives. He has made a great many improvements on this place. In 1884 he built a fine large barn and made additions on the house and other needed improvements.


Mr. Flager is a Democrat, and was elected township trustee by that party, and served a term of two years. He is steward and a member of the Methodist Church.

 HARLES W. FELDNER, of the firm of Feldner, Olney & Richards, a well-known clothing firm of Van Wert, was born in this county, December 11, 1873, and is a son of Jacob and Autoinette (Wendell) Feldner. The parents of Mr. Feldner reared a family of six children, and now reside at Van Wert in merited retirement.

Charles W. Feldner obtained an excellent common-school education before he began his

business career, which has been almost entirely in the line of clothing. He began as a clerk and thus learned every detail before he became a member of the firm of Feldner, Olney & Richards, proprietors of an establishment which stands very high in the community, with a constantly increasing trade which already covers a wide territory. Personally Mr. Feldner enjoys the absolute confidence and respect of his business associates and fellow-citizens.

Charles W. Feldner was united in marriage with Emma Weber, who is a daughter of John Weber, a well-known citizen of Van Wert, and they have one child—Marguerite Louise. Their attractive home is located at No. 821 East Central avenue and they are especially prominent in German social circles. Both Mr. Feldner and his wife are members of St. Peter's Church, and he himself is active in the local work of the Knights of Pythias.

 EORGE WASHINGTON WEBB, one of the substantial and representative farmers of Union township, who resides upon his well-improved farm of 55 acres in section 20, was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, April 15, 1834 and is a son of Elias and Anna Elizabeth (Holmes) Webb.

The father of Mr. Webb, as well as his mother, were natives of Virginia. In 1854 they moved to Fayette County, Ohio, and in 1874 to Van Wert County. They became the parents of these children: Phoebe Ann, who died in Illinois; Andrew Jackson, who was a member of a Fayette County cavalry company during the Civil war; Joseph, who died aged four years; George W., of this sketch; John Wesley, who died in young manhood in Fayette County; Alexander, who also served in the


Civil war, enlisting from Fayette County; William Morgan, now of Michigan, who was also a soldier of the Union Army; and Mary Agnes (Clemmons), who resides in Kansas.

George W. Webb, who was 20 years old when his parents moved to Ohio, remained at home until he was 21 years of age, employed in the fields and the timber. The young man proved himself an adept in the use of the drawing knife and worked at rail and shingle making both in Virginia and in Fayette County, Ohio. In 1875 he purchased his present farm, all timber-covered at that time, its only improvement being a log hut which had been used by former settlers. Mr. Webb now has a comfortable home, including a good dwelling and all necessary buildings, and has his land under fine cultivation, reserving some three acres in timber. He has always been noted for his industry and is largely a self-made man.

On July 2, 1855, Mr. Webb was married to Charlotte Shaver, who was born in Augusta County, Virginia (now West Virginia), September 29, 1837, and is a daughter of Peter and Catherine (Good) Shaver, both natives of that State. To Mr. and Mrs. Peter Shaver were born the following: Elizabeth (Kelly), deceased; David, of Missouri; Joseph, deceased, who was a veteran of the Civil war; Rachel (Pierce), deceased; Jacob, of Missouri; Charlotte, wife of our subject; Mary (Hudson), of McHenry County, Illinois; Benjamin, of Missouri; and Martha (Burner), of Kansas.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Webb are the following: Henry M., of Van Wert; William Wesley, of Convoy; Peter E., of Union township; Anna, wife of George W. Bowers; Emily J., wife of Louis Tracy, of York township; Adah Pearl, wife of Wilbert Poling, who resides at home; and Vernon J., who lives on a neighboring farm.

Politically Mr. Webb is a Democrat, but he no longer takes an active part in political matters. Formerly, as road commissioner, he had much to do with establishing good permanent roads through the township. Religiously he is a valued member of the Olive Branch Christian Church. He has always been a staunch citizen, and, at the time of the Morgan raids through Ohio joined his loyal neighbors, and for a week was connected with the military organization then formed to protect the Buckeye State.

 AMUEL FARLING, who owns and operates a farm of 80 acres in section 26, Liberty township, was born in Richland County, Ohio, December 14, 1857, and is a son of Abraham and Lavina (Zimmermann) Farling.

Abraham Farling and his wife were both Pennsylvanians by birth. They were married in that State, and moved from there to Richland County, Ohio, where they owned a farm of 60 acres. In 1865 they moved to Van Wert County and located on a farm of 80 acres in Ridge township. In 1870 Mr. Farling was injured by a falling tree, which accident resulted in his death. His wife is still living on the old homestead in Ridge township. They reared a family of nine children—five sons and four daughters.

Samuel Farling spent his early boyhood days in Richland County, and when eight years old moved with his parents to Van Wert County. Here he has lived ever since as a tiller of the soil. He was married August 10, 1882 to Minnie Elva Wade, a daughter of Robert and Ursula (Fultz) Wade. Robert Wade who was a native of West Virginia, came with his parents to Ohio when about five years old. In 1867 he moved from Clinton

County to Van Wert County and settled on a farm of 120 acres in Pleasant township. Mr. and Mrs. Wade are still living, and reside on a farm of 80 acres in Mercer County.

Mr. and Mrs. Farling have reared five children: Robert, born April 23, 1884, who married Myrtle Lichty, and lives in Mercer County; Olive Sophronia, born October 12, 1886; Edward Quigley, born September 29, 1888; Bertha May, born June 1, 1890; and Hazel Iona, born June 1, 1894. Mr. Farling lived on the John Smith farm in York township for three years subsequent to his marriage, and then moved to Hoaglin township, where he bought a farm of 20 acres and lived there for six years. He then sold that place and moved to the old home farm, where he remained for the next five years. In 1896 he bought 40 acres in York township, and lived there until 1901, when he sold this farm, and bought his present farm of 80 acres.

Mr. Farling was elected township trustee by the Republican party in 1903 and will serve until the fall of 1906. He was at one time school director and township supervisor. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

ISAIAH K. ACKERMAN was born on the old Dix farm in Pleasant township December 7, 1856, and has always lived in Van Wert County, devoting his time and energies to farming. He is a son of William B. and Rebecca (Wiler) Ackerman, his father, a native of Stark County, Ohio, coming to Van Wert County in 1854, where he engaged in farming until his death. Besides Isaiah K., the following five children were born to our subject's parents: Martha (Merris), now deceased; Nancy Catherine (Beatty), of Van Wert; R. F., who lives

on the home place; W. G., who resides in the northeastern part of Tully township; and Rebecca J. (Omen), of Tully township. William B. Ackerman served in an Illinois regiment during the Civil war for about 11 months, largely in the capacity of a scout. His death occurred in 1877. Politically he was a Republican, and he and his wife were both members of the United Brethren Church.

Isaiah K. Ackerman lived on the Dix place until he was one year old, when his parents moved to Harrison township, where they remained 11 years; then locating on a farm one mile north of Convoy, Tully township. In 1872 he was married to Anna Waller, who was a native of Indiana and a daughter of Edward and Mary J. (Henney) Waller. After his marriage, Mr. Ackerman left the family homestead and lived on two different farms until 1901, when he settled on his present place. Mr. and Mrs. Ackerman have had the following nine children; of whom but three are living: Lottie May, who died when 10 days old; two unnamed infants, who died shortly after birth; J. Orville, deceased at 16 days; Iva B., who died at the age of four years and six months; Abner B., who died April 16, 1905, aged 10 years; Pearl C., born August 23, 1897; Oval Modean, born August 4, 1904; and Harold Isaiah, born October 5, 1905. Mr. Ackerman has always been a Republican. Mrs. Ackerman is a member of the Church of God.

LUGH V. OLNEY, one of the highly esteemed retired residents of Van Wert County, formerly very active in several important lines of business, but now solely interested in superintending his large landed interests, was born in Marion County, Ohio, February 25, 1848, and is a son

of Benjamin and Eliza J. (Smith) Olney. His grandfather, Gilbert Olney, who was a native of Nova Scotia, was an early settler of Muskingum County, Ohio, and died in Wyandot County, this State.

Benjamin Olney, father of Hugh V., was born and reared at Marietta, Ohio, but in 1838 located in Wyandot County, where he engaged in farming and school teaching until 1885. Later he became associated with the Marion Manufacturing Company, of Marion, Ohio, and for 16 consecutive years served as a justice of the peace. In 1856 he married Eliza J. Smith, who was born in Union County, Ohio, in the year 1826, and they became the parents of five children, viz.: a child who died in infancy, Hugh V., Alice, Sarah and Elizabeth.

Hugh V. Olney was educated in the district schools and remained on the home farm until ready to enter into business, going then to Ottawa, Putnam County, where he was associated with an uncle for three years. He then accompanied his father to Marion, Ohio, where he worked as a carpenter until 1877, when he came to Van Wert and embarked in the clothing business. He sold the establishment in 1888, but conducted a boot and shoe business until 1891, since which year his large property interests, in Pleasant, Washington, Hoaglin and Union townships, have claimed his entire attention. He also owns city property and is one of the county's capitalists. He is on the directing board of some of the city's successful enterprises and as a business man probably has few superiors.

On September 26, 1871, Hugh V. Olney was united in marriage in Marion County, Ohio, to Sarah O. Harvey, and they have had four children, viz.: Clara; Edith, wife of Edward Doe; Myrtle; and David K. (deceased), extended mention of whom will be found in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Olney are mem-

bers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he is a trustee.

In city affairs Mr. Olney has been very prominent, serving as a member of the council, where his business perceptions have been of the greatest value to the municipality. Externally he is a Knight Templar Mason, and is also connected with the Royal Arcanum and the National Union.



E. SCHMIDT, one of the enterprising business men and valued citizens of Ohio City, who is engaged in a mercantile business at this point, was born in Willshire township, in 1860, and is a son of Peter Schmidt, who accompanied his father, Charles Schmidt, when a child of five years, to Van Wert County about the year 1835.

J. E. Schmidt was reared on his father's farm, and was educated in the local schools. He was trained to be a practical farmer and would probably have continued to follow agricultural pursuits all his life, had not an accidental injury rendered him unable to follow farming. He was then about 30 years of age. Removing to Ohio City, in 1890 he went out on the road for J. W. Lambert & Company, selling farm implements and remained their representative for four years. He then became connected with the Plano Harvester Company, his territory including from four to seven counties, and continued with them for nine consecutive years. In 1902 Mr. Schmidt embarked in a grocery business, which he continued until 1904, when, on account of his wife's failing health, he sold out and took her to Jacksonville, Florida. A six months' residence in that balmy climate restored her to health. Upon his return to Ohio City, Mr. Schmidt bought a

fine brick building, 22 by 70 feet, in the Union Block, and here he has put in a stock of staple and fancy groceries second to none in the city.

Politically Mr. Schmidt is a Republican, and he has served four years on the City Council, being the only Republican member. He has also served as city assessor.

On October 8, 1882, Mr. Schmidt was married to Tillie E. Fowler, who is a daughter of Reuben W. Fowler, one of the old settlers of Willshire township. Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt have one daughter, Lucy, who is the wife of Frank Kimball, a well-known oil driller of Ohio City.



WILLIAM H. REID, owner of a valuable farm of 100 acres in section 30, Liberty township, upon which oil has been developed, was born in Defiance County, Ohio, on April 10, 1856, and is a son of William and Hannah (DeHaven) Reid.

William Reid was born in Richland County, Ohio, where he was reared to manhood. Afterward locating in Van Wert County, he married Hannah DeHaven, born October 31, 1832, a daughter of William DeHaven, who died when she was quite small, the widow marrying Henry F. Tindall, a resident of Willshire township, and an early settler of the county. After Mr. Reid's marriage he moved to Defiance County, where our subject was born, as well as another son, John, who now resides in Seattle, Washington. William Reid died November 26, 1856, after which his widow settled at Spencerville, Indiana, and married Lewis Griest of that place.

Until his ninth year William H. Reid was reared in Spencerville, Indiana, and then his mother and step-father moved to Illinois, where he lived for nine years. The youth then

accompanied them to Iowa, where his mother and step-father both died, his mother's death occurring on August 12, 1900. After his marriage to Catherine Rittenhouse, of Union township, this county, Mr. Reid returned to Iowa where he lived only 18 months, after which for three years he resided on his father-in-law's farm in Union township. He then bought 40 acres of land in the same township in section 28, which he farmed for five years. After selling this property in June, 1901, he purchased his present homestead, on which he located in the fall of that year, where he has continued to live since. Mr. Reid has three producing oil-wells on his farm, which, with its agricultural productiveness, makes it a very valuable property.

William H. Reid is the father of seven children: Alameda, who married Ira Shewalter, of Union township, and has two children—Byron and Ansel; Hallie Blanch, deceased September 10, 1903, aged 20 years, who was the wife of H. H. Mace, and left one child—Eva; Elva; Nina, who married H. H. Mace, widower of her sister; Charles; Lon; and Gaylord. Mrs. Catherine Reid died on July 28, 1896, and on October 17, 1898, Mr. Reid married Mrs. Annie M. Sloan, a daughter of Oren Chapple.



WALEB HUNSAKER, whose excellent farm of 80 acres is situated in section 12, Jackson township, is one of the well-known early settlers of this locality. He was born in Hocking County, Ohio, June 19, 1848, and is a son of John and Catherine (Hufford) Hunsaker, both of whom were natives of Fairfield County, Ohio, the father being for more than 40 years a member of the old German Baptist Church.

The family is of German extraction and were early settlers in Pennsylvania. The great-grandparents of our subject were captured, with their youngest child, and all were killed by the Indians. Jacob Hunsaker and his brother Isaac were carried from Pennsylvania to Quebec, Canada, where they were kept by the savages for nine years, but finally escaped. The elder of the two sons was the grandfather of Caleb Hunsaker, and subsequently settled in Fairfield County, Ohio, as one of its early pioneers.

Caleb Hunsaker was reared in Hocking County, there attended school and was trained in the practical ways which made certain his future success. On January 31, 1869, he was united in marriage with Catherine Mowery, who was born in Hocking County, Ohio, May 29, 1849, and is a daughter of John and Lucy (Red) Mowery. Her father was born in Hocking County, and her mother in Licking County, Ohio. The former was a veteran of the Civil war, one who, in the danger of battle and the toil of the march, bravely did his duty. He was honorably discharged and was hastening home to greet his loved ones, when he was killed by the explosion of the steamboat which was conveying the soldiers up the Mississippi River.

To Mr. and Mrs. Caleb Hunsaker were born 12 children and 11 of them still survive, namely: Noah, who lives in South Dakota; Ida (Mrs. Norval Dearing), of Hoaglin township; Charles, of Jackson township; Cora (Mrs. William Reed), of Putnam County; Ellen (Mrs. William B. Foster), of Union township; Bertha (Mrs. Isaac L. Denlinger), of Montgomery County, Ohio; and Mary A., Daniel, Thomas, Amos and Jennie, all of whom live at home. Nancy is deceased. Both Mr. Hunsaker and his wife are members of the

old German Baptist Church, and for years he has been a local minister in the same.

About 1874 Mr. Hunsaker moved to Allen County, where he resided until 1879, and then came to Jackson township, Van Wert County, locating on his present farm, which was then all woodland. The clearing and improving of this land has been Mr. Hunsaker's business for a number of years, and he now has it under a fine state of cultivation; and he is not only one of his township's reliable, substantial men, but takes a creditable interest in public matters and assist in all good works. At present he is a school director of District No. 2, Jackson township.

JOHAN F. SHAFFNER, M. D., physician and surgeon, residing at Wellshire, and probably the oldest practitioner, in years of service, in Van Wert County, was born in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, May 23, 1829, and is a son of Martin and Anna Eve (Wert) Shaffner.

The Shaffner family originated in Switzerland and was established in Pennsylvania in the person of the grandfather of Dr. Shaffner, whose parents were both natives of the Keystone State. The father was born in 1787, and died September 13, 1872 at Van Wert, while on a visit from Bucyrus, Ohio. From farming pursuits and judicious investments in land, he amassed what would be considered a fortune in those days, a part of Bucyrus now standing on what was formerly one of his farms. Like all of the older Shaffners, some of whom have lived to the age of 90 years, he reached an advanced age and left behind many descendants.

Martin Shaffner married four times and had three families of children, all of whom

were reared comfortably and lived in harmony. Nine children were born to his first marriage, three to the second—one of whom is our esteemed subject—and nine to the third. Of his 21 children, 19 lived to marry. The first wife and her children rest together in a quiet churchyard in Pennsylvania. Dr. Shaffner is the only survivor of the second union and is the only one of all the children to take up a profession. Seven members of the third family still survive; at one time four of the brothers were soldiers in the Civil war.

In the fall following the birth of our subject, his parents moved from Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, to a location one mile east of Bucyrus, Ohio, where they lived from 1829 until 1843. Then the father sold the property and removed to Seneca County, John F. assisting on the farm and attending the common schools until 1846. In that year he entered Delaware College, now the Ohio Wesleyan University, where he remained for two years, and then commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Eli Dresbach, a well-known practitioner of Tiffin, Ohio. During his three years of study he had many opportunities to do a little practicing, after which valuable experience (in the winter of 1861) he attended a course of lectures at Cleveland, and during 1874-75, lectures at the Ohio Medical College, Cincinnati, where he completed his course.

Dr. Shaffner first engaged in professional work at New Washington, Crawford County, Ohio, practicing there, at Waynesburg, Stark County, and in Seneca County, until 1864, when he entered the army as assistant surgeon of the 164th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf. He was mustered out in the following September, his service having been in Virginia. Dr. Shaffner then returned to Republic, Seneca County, Ohio, and remained there until the winter of 1867. In January, 1868, he located in Will-

shire and this town has been his home ever since. Once he was known to almost every man, woman and child in the place, and still he is known by reputation, if not personally, to all his fellow-citizens. He has devoted a long and useful life to alleviating the sufferings of all who have solicited his aid, irrespective of condition or station, and no one can truthfully declare that a matter of remuneration has ever stood between him and a patient, his services in the cause of charity being given freely and unheralded.

Dr. Shaffner has been twice married—first on March 29, 1849, to Barbara Mader, who was born in Stark County, Ohio, and a daughter of David Mader. She fell a victim to consumption. Several of her children have also succumbed to the "Great White Plague." The fruits of this marriage were: Agnes, born in 1851, who died in 1878; David, who died at the age of 35 years; Kate, who is the wife of Sylvester Brock, of Payne County, Oklahoma; Webster, a resident of Elwood, Indiana; Winfield and Malvina, who died in infancy; and Addie, who died aged five years.

Dr. Shaffner married (second) Nancy Jane Roop, who was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Frederick Roop. The children of this marriage were: Frederick, deceased; Anna E., the wife of F. P. Hancher, of Elwood, Indiana; and Lucy, William, Bessie, Paul, Ruth, Esther and Selma, all living at home. Dr. Shaffner owns his comfortable, commodious residence, his office building on Main street, and some vacant property in the form of building lots; and in the rapidly developing conditions of Willshire his properties are yearly growing more valuable.

Since 1852 Dr. Shaffner has been a staunch Democrat. He cast his first presidential vote for Winfield Scott, for whom he entertained the greatest admiration, and in 1853 his first

real Democratic vote was given to Governor William Medill, of Ohio.

In local matters Dr. Shaffner has been an important factor for many years. He is a justice of the peace and for the past 30 years has been a notary public. Probably on account of his fluency in the German language he has done more notary business than any other like officially in his locality. He has always been an active promoter of public improvements and has liberally supported all educational and religious movements. For some seven years he has been a member of the Board of Education and at present is its able president. For 27 years he has been a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at Willshire, and for 25 years its recording secretary, being a constant attendant at the quarterly conference of the church.

For many years Dr. Shaffner has also been prominent in the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Willshire Lodge No. 402, F. & A. M., and to Van Wert Chapter and Ivanhoe Commandery at Van Wert. Until the organization disbanded, he was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Willshire. He is well and favorably known in the various medical organizations; is identified with the American Medical Association, Ohio State Medical Society and the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association, and his presence is always welcomed in any representative gathering of his profession.

In meeting Dr. Shaffner the stranger has no difficulty in understanding the esteem and affection with which he is regarded by his fellow-citizens. He possesses the qualities which belong essentially to a man of his profession, and it is easy to imagine the cheer his mere presence would bring into a sick chamber. He possesses a kindly heart and a sympathizing manner, entirely consistent with the faithful

discharge of the stern duties which very often face him, and inspires confidence from the start. His happy philosophy of life is that it does not pay to worry, and that he carries out his theory is proven by his hale, hearty, remarkably youthful appearance, although he is the shadow of his 77th birthday. He attributes much of his good health to his strict temperance.

Dr. Shaffner was one of the builders and directors of what became the Kokomo division of the St. Louis & Western Railroad (narrow-gauge), from Delphos to the State line.



ALBERT A. McGOUGH, a well-known and highly respected farmer of Liberty township, residing on a farm of 106 acres located in section 30, was born in Franklin County, Ohio, November 10, 1851, and is a son of William Henry and Margaret (Arnold) McGough. Both parents were natives of Knox County, Ohio, where they were married, and for many years engaged in farming.

Mr. McGough was quite young when his parents moved from Franklin County to Auglaize County, and thence in 1862 to Liberty township. Mr. McGough was educated in District No. 1, Liberty township, and later studied under Hon. Augustus L. Sweet, now of Van Wert. He was married in 1878 to Arabelle Shaffer, a daughter of John Shaffer. They are the parents of 12 children, namely: John, who married Eva Behymer, of Mercer County, and lives in Lima, where he is bookkeeper for the Oil Well Supply Company; Clarence, who married Alice Tipple and lives in Mercer County on a farm; Percy, a stenographer for a mining company in Waterbury, Ohio, who married Martha Taylor—he is a

graduate of the Lima Business College, as is also his oldest son, John; Lucy, who married Rev. J. P. Hight, pastor of the United Brethren Church of Celina, Ohio; Colbert; Harry, who died November 14, 1905, aged 18 years; Nina, who died at the age of 15 months; Addie; Marie; D'Arle; Ruby; and Vernon.

After his marriage, Mr. McGough rented for one year a farm in the eastern part of Liberty township, and in 1897 bought a 106-acre tract, which was at one time the property of his wife's grandfather, Absalom Brey. He located on the farm in 1898, and has since resided there. Oil has been developed on the place, and there are now eight wells in operation. Mr. McGough is a member of the Mount Zion United Brethren Church, of which he is also trustee and superintendent of the Sunday-school.



M. HOAGLIN, postmaster of Cavett for the past seven years, and proprietor of a large general store in this village, is a son of Isaac and Sabina E. (Rank) Hoaglin, who reside on a farm in Hoaglin township. His grandfather, Aaron Hoaglin, came to this county in 1840, entered the first land and built the first cabin in the township, which was later named in his honor. His son Isaac, the father of our subject, was born January 29, 1836, in Richland County, and was four years of age when the family located here. Aaron Hoaglin resided on this land until his death, and was survived by his wife, Sarah, for many years. Isaac Hoaglin has a farm of 86 acres, 40 of which comprised the original tract entered by his father. The present residence is built within a few feet of the site of the old log house. Isaac Hoaglin married Sabina E. Rank, who was born in Richland County in May, 1840.

They are the parents of six children, namely: W. M.; Sarah Elizabeth (Fife), of Scott; Rosa M. (McMillen), who died in November, 1905; Pearl N., of Scott; Jerry C.; and Odesa Gilbert, of Grover Hill, Paulding County. The two younger sons live at home.

W. M. Hoaglin was born on the old homestead July 6, 1861, and resided at home until his 24th year, when for one year he was employed in the tile factory of Mr. Mohr. He then returned to farming, renting land for four years, and then purchasing 80 acres of woodland in section 12, Union township. This tract he cleared and improved, after which he disposed of half of the land, and for the past nine years has kept a tenant on his 40 acres. For about two years he conducted a grain elevator at Briceton, Paulding County, and was at Worstville where he bought the first grain hauled to that point. About seven years ago he purchased his present store and stock of goods, and located at Cavett. He has added a complete line of coal, pulp, plaster, cement, etc., and receives a large patronage from the surrounding country.

Mr. Hoaglin was married in 1885 to Susie M. Mohr, a native of Hoaglin township, and a daughter of Gottlieb and Sarah Mohr. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hoaglin: Hollie E., Gernie W., and Nellie Beulah. Mr. Hoaglin is a Democrat, and both he and Mrs. Hoaglin are members of the Grand Victory Evangelical Church.



CHARLES G. CHURCH, M. D., a member of the firm of Flemming & Church, physicians and surgeons, physician for the Van Wert County Infirmary and health officer of the city of Van Wert, was born June 2, 1873, at Erie.

Pennsylvania, and is one of a family of three children born to his parents, Leonard and Emma (Gerrish) Church.

Charles G. Church was reared and attended school at Marysville, Ohio, where his father was engaged as a merchant. In young manhood he attended the Ohio Wesleyan University, for one year, and the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, for two years, and then attended Northwestern University at Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1899.

After graduating and receiving his medical diploma, Dr. Church came to Van Wert where he has been a resident ever since. On July 1, 1905, he entered into partnership with Dr. Flenning, who, like himself, is a valued member of the Van Wert County Medical Society. In 1900 Dr. Church was appointed health officer of Van Wert and infirmiry physician—positions which he fills with the utmost efficiency.

Dr. Church married Claire Robinson, a daughter of George P. Robinson, and they have one child. Their pleasant home is located on Boyd avenue. Both he and his wife attend the Presbyterian Church. The Doctor's offices are situated on the corner of Washington and Central avenues. Politically Dr. Church is a Republican, and fraternally, a Mason.



THOMAS GEETHING, an esteemed resident of Hoaglin township, whose home is located in section 2, was born in Washington County, Maryland, December 19, 1819, and is a son of Jacob and Margaret (Thomas) Geething, also natives of Maryland. His grandfather, Rev. Jacob Geething, was a native of Germany, who came to America and devoted his life to the Master's

service in Washington County, Maryland, in which State he died.

Thomas Geething was probably 10 years of age when his parents moved to Stark County, Ohio, where he received his education. In 1844 he came to Allen County, and in 1850 located in Van Wert, which has since been his home. In May, 1862, he enlisted in Company A, 139th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., as a 100-day volunteer, and was sent to Point Lookout. He was on guard duty part of the time and was later detailed as cook. He was honorably discharged at Camp Dennison in August, 1862.

On August 12, 1846, occurred the marriage of Thomas Geething and Esther Crates, and if their lives are spared a few short months they will have rounded out 60 years of married life—years in which the bond of affection has been strengthened by the various vicissitudes through which they have passed. Esther Crates was born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, December 20, 1822, and is a daughter of John and Catherine (Yonkman) Crates. When she was three months old her parents who were natives of Pennsylvania moved to Portage County, Ohio, where they remained until her 18th year. At that time they moved to Allen County, and about 1849 came to Van Wert County and settled in Ridge township, where they died. A brother, Winston T. Crates, and a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Bresler, reside in Van Wert. To Mr. and Mrs. Geething seven children have been born, namely: Catherine, who is the wife of Andrew J. DeCamp, of Jackson township; Sarah E., widow of Henry Davis, and a resident of Los Angeles, California; William D., of Hoaglin township; Eliza M., wife of William Critchell, of Hoaglin township; Viola E., deceased, who was the wife of John Wisner; and who died in childhood. Mr. and Mrs. Geething are members of Mount Tabor United Brethren

Church, and are devoted and consistent Christians. The subject of this sketch is a stalwart Republican and bases his views on principles of right and justice.

JR. SWOVELAND, agent for the Wells-Fargo Express Company, at Ohio City, was born at Rockford, Mercer County, Ohio, April 4, 1873, and is a son of Peter and Mary Catherine (Weagly) Swoveland.

The grandparents of Mr. Swoveland were the pioneer settlers of the family in Van Wert County, the grandfather locating on a forest tract in Liberty township. There the father of Mr. Swoveland was reared and from there he went out as a soldier of the Civil war, through the whole period of which he served with loyalty and fidelity. He died in January, 1905.

J. R. Swoveland was reared and educated at Ohio City and the city of Van Wert, and then taught school for three years in York township. About this time he became financially interested in the Windfall Glass Works, at Windfall, Indiana, acquiring a third interest in the business; but this he later disposed of and returned to Ohio City. For the next six years Mr. Swoveland was a clerk in the offices of the Erie Railroad, at Ohio City, and in 1902 he accepted the agency of the Wells-Fargo Express Company in this city. He has numerous business interests here, one of these promising to become one of the most important industries of the place. He has erected a plant for the manufacture of cement blocks, and has large capital behind him. He also owns an interest in the plant of the Ohio Whipstock Manufacturing Company here. As a business man he is able and progressive, and is one of the city's best known men.

In 1899 Mr. Swoveland was married to Emma Kiser, who is a daughter of Jacob Kiser, one of the prominent farmers of Van Wert County. He has three children: Hugh; Madge; and Dale. Mrs. Swoveland died March 9, 1906.

Politically a Republican, he has been active for some years. For almost three years he has served as treasurer of Ohio City, and for two years was city clerk. His fraternal connection is with the Knights of Pythias.

GEORGE W. WORTMAN, farmer and veteran of the War of the Rebellion, was born in Tully township, Van Wert County, July 2, 1840, and has been almost a life-long citizen of Hoaglin township. James and Hannah (Beck) Wortman, his parents, were born in New Brunswick, where they were married and some of their children were born. Coming to Ohio, they resided a short time in Harrison County before locating permanently in Van Wert. This was some time in the '30's, at which time James Wortman entered 160 acres of land in Tully township, where he resided many years. He was a man who had the good will and esteem of all who knew him, and his death, which occurred June 27, 1862, was regarded as a loss to the entire community. Four of his sons took part in the Rebellion, James, Jacob, Aaron and George, the three first named being slain in battle and laid to sleep in the enemy's country. Mrs. Hannah (Beck) Wortman died in 1856.

George W. Wortman enlisted June 10, 1862, in Company A, 52nd Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., all three of his brothers having entered Company H, 15th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf. He was in the Army of the Cumberland, and took

part in the battles of Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Altoona, Kenesaw Mountain, Resaca, Rome, and many others, going with Sherman to Atlanta. On this march he received two severe wounds during a charge made on the Confederates on June 27, 1864. This necessitated his removal to a hospital, where he was confined for several months. He was honorably discharged at Camp Dennison, Ohio, on May 12, 1865. He draws a pension of \$12 per month.

Returning to Van Wert County, Mr. Wortman again turned his attention to farming and on September 10, 1865, was married to Barbara A. Kesler, a native of this State. Nine children were born to them, five of whom are living, viz.: Samuel A.; Mary E., wife of Isaiah N. Baken, who resides near Hudson, Michigan; John E., David P. and Oliver P. The sons are all residents of Hoaglin township. On April 26, 1902, Mrs. Wortman entered her long rest, leaving a wide circle of friends who felt her death to be a personal loss. Mr. Wortman is an earnest Christian, and has taken an active part in church work for many years. He united with the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1859, and has held various offices in the church. He is a man whose exemplary life is worthy of emulation.




WILLIAM McCracken. Among the prominent farmers of Van Wert County, William McCracken, who resides on his farm in section 31, Jackson township, may well be given a prominent place. He was born January 7, 1855, in Fairfield County, this State, and is a son of James and Frances (Gilbert) McCracken. The father was a native of Scotland and the mother of Ireland; they settling in

Fairfield County in 1850, where the father died 10 years later. The mother, now almost 70 years of age, resides in Athens County, Ohio, with the half-sister of our subject—Jane, the wife of Alexander Moore.

Mr. McCracken remains in his native county until after he reached his majority. In 1877 he came to Jackson township, Van Wert County, where he entered 40 acres of land, which was the nucleus around which he has formed his present farm of 115 acres, the attractive and prosperous appearance of which stamps him as a farmer of far more than average ability. Having learned the plasterer's trade in early life, Mr. McCracken followed that occupation for about 30 years, and, in addition to his farming operations in Jackson township, he was for many years the leading contractor in that line in his locality.

On September 20, 1883, William McCracken was joined in marriage to Mrs. Laura J. Beery, who was born March 9, 1851, in Fairfield County, Ohio, and is a daughter of the late Abner and Mary (Poling) Elder. Her parents moved to Van Wert County, where they lived many years and where the father was familiarly known as Squire Elder, having for some time been justice of the peace in Jackson township. He was a Republican and his death, which occurred in December, 1902, was universally regretted. Of the children born to Abner Elder and wife five survive, namely: Laura J., wife of our subject; John W., of Jackson township; Mary E., wife of R. F. Kiger, of Van Wert; Hiram T., of Marion, Indiana; and Charles D., of Van Wert. One son, Lehr, born June 10, 1891, has blessed the union of Mr. McCracken and his estimable wife. They are both members of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, of Jackson township, and take a leading part in the work of that body as well as in the social life of the com-


munity. Mr. McCracken was one of the charter members of Washington Grange, No. 1327, P. of H., of Jackson township, served as master of the same, and is also a member of the I. O. O. F. lodge of Middlepoint. He is at present president of the Middlepoint Home Telephone Company and is a man of undoubted business ability.

RANK A. GAMBLE was appointed liquor tax inspector February 15, 1902, and has since maintained offices in Van Wert for the discharge of the duties required by the Ohio dairy and food laws. He was born at Pleasant Mills, Indiana, November 30, 1866, and is a son of Robert W. and Margaret C. (Williams) Gamble, residents of Indiana. The father was a native of Carroll County, Ohio, and a harness maker by trade, but in later years turned to farming. The family consisted of eight children, of whom but three are now living.

Frank A. Gamble received his education in the common schools of Mercer County, and at 18 years of age began his career of independence, at first stopping for a short time in Paulding County where he engaged in farming until about 1888, when he came to Van Wert County. Locating in the village of Scott he conducted a mercantile business there, and was also postmaster until he came to Van Wert in 1900, where he has since lived. From 1897 to 1899 Mr. Gamble served as assistant department revenue collector of the 10th Ohio district, under Col. George P. Waldorf.

Mr. Gamble married Icy M. Horney, daughter of John Horney. Both he and his wife are prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Three children blessed their union, the two living being Maud M. and


Aimee M. Mr. Gamble is a strong Republican and takes an intelligent interest in the success of that organization. He is prominent in fraternal circles, being past president of Van Wert Aerie, No. 886, Fraternal Order of Eagles; past chancellor of the Knights of Pythias, and past sachem of the Improved Order of Red Men, and past grand of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is also a member of the Home Guards of America. He has closely identified himself with the best element of the city.

ENRY COTTERMAN, the well-known farmer who resides on his estate in section 4, Hoaglin township, was born in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, May 17, 1838. He is a son of Jonathan and Mary (Long) Cotterman, natives of the same place in which his paternal great-grandfather had settled many years before, when he arrived in this country from Germany.

The family moved to Shelby County, Ohio, where our subject attended school and grew to manhood, after which he went to Miami County, where, in August, 1862, he enlisted in Company E, 110th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served almost three years. He was in the battles of the Wilderness, Cold Harbor, Cedar Run, took part in the engagements in the Shenandoah Valley and in many other decisive battles under Grant and Sheridan. He was fortunate to escape from these encounters unharmed, except from the first named, in which he received a wound in the left leg. Returning to Miami County, he remained there a few years and then moved his family to Shelby County, which was their home before moving to Van Wert County. In the fall of 1881 he purchased his present farm, and by his care and

improvement of this property has proved himself to be one of the foremost agriculturists in this section of the State.

Mr. Cotterman was married in Miami County, August 2, 1859, to Catherine Ralston, a native of that county and a daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth (Wellhance) Ralston. Mrs. Cotterman was born August 17, 1839, and is a lady of domestic tastes, who believes a woman's first duty is to her family and she has devoted her life to the practice of this belief, finding ample compensation in the love of husband and children. Ten children have been added to the household, namely: Andrew, residing in Paulding County; Harriet E., wife of John Hipsley, of Paulding County; Clara E., wife of Lorenzo D. McGlaughlin of Paulding County; Roswell; Lewis A.; Charles E.; William F.; Frances Irene, wife of Clyde Kiser; Eugene H.; and Grover C.—all of Hoaglin township, except Mrs. Kiser, who lives in Miami County, and those mentioned as residing in Paulding County. Mr. Cotterman is a Democrat. While he is not a member of any church he is a liberal contributor towards the cause of religion and is always on the side of right and justice.

HAPHET DWIRE, one of Harrison township's most substantial and respected citizens, has been a resident of Van Wert County continuously since 1858. He is a native of Carroll County, Ohio, the date of his birth being March 9, 1831. His parents, Joseph and Lucinda (Johnson) Dwire, were Pennsylvanians by birth and early settlers of Carroll County.

Shaphet Dwire was six years of age when he was left an orphan, and his progress in life was consequently attended with greater dif-

ficulties than fall to the lot of the average youth. He was reared on a farm in his native county, and continued there until 1858, in which year he located in Pleasant township, Van Wert County. Here he remained about one year, when he settled on his present farm in section 13, Harrison township.

In September, 1864, Mr. Dwire enlisted in Company F, 64th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served in General Thomas' army until the close of the war. Among the most important engagements in which he participated were Franklin, Spring Hill and Nashville, all in Tennessee. He was with General Thomas' command throughout the campaign against Hood, the destruction of whose army was one of the most important steps in bringing the war to an end. In June, 1865, Mr. Dwire was honorably discharged at Camp Harper, near Nashville, and immediately returned to his home and family. He resumed his work on the farm, which, in the course of time, was converted from timberland to a tillable tract. The original buildings occupied by the Dwire family have been replaced by a more modern residence and barn, and substantial out-buildings.

For a period of nearly 40 years Mr. Dwire sold farm implements throughout this section of the State, but has done very little in that line in recent years. He installed the first "Buckeye" reaper in Van Wert County, soon after the Buckeye factory was started. Mr. Dwire is a man of progress and public spirit, and has done even more than his share in the development of Harrison township, which has been his home continuously for about 48 years.

In 1852 Shaphet Dwire was married in Carrioll County, Ohio, to Sarah Jane Viley, who was a native of Pennsylvania, and died on the old home place October 2, 1899. The following children were born to their union: Rebecca (Brown), who lives in Van Wert;

Lemuel, living on the home place, who married Esther Robinson and is the father of Cleo, Ilo, Murle, Ruth, Vera and Nellie; Sarah Edna (North) who resides in Convoy; William, also a resident of Convoy; Orlando, who lives in Newton, Iowa; and Leroy, who lives in Newton, Iowa; and Leroy, of the State of Washington. Politically, Mr. Dwire is a Republican, and fraternally, a member of W. C. Scott Post, No. 100, G. A. R., at Van Wert.

GEORGE L. MOORE, one of the leading business men of Ohio City in the line of real estate, loans and insurance, has resided here since 1891. He was born in Clermont County, Ohio, May 14, 1869, and is a son of Lysander S. Moore, who was a native of Belmont County, Ohio, but died on his farm in Clermont County.

George L. Moore was reared and educated in Clermont County, and when prepared for business, he came to Ohio City and joined his brother, J. C. Moore, who was the first mayor of this municipality. One year later, in 1892 he succeeded his brother in the hardware business, and successfully conducted it for six years. He then sold out and has since engaged in the real estate, loan and insurance business. The latter includes fire and cyclone insurance, and he represents these reliable companies: the North America, Glenn Falls, Germania, Connecticut and Phoenix. He handles a large amount of valuable property, including farming land and city real estate. Mr. Moore is treasurer and director in the Liberty Oil Company, large producers in the Ohio City oil-field.

In 1893 Mr. Moore was married to Emma R. Boltzell, who is a daughter of Samuel Boltzell, one of Ohio City's esteemed retired citi-

zens. Mr. Boltzell was born at Cincinnati December 28, 1832, and was reared and educated in Hamilton County. Later he came to Van Wert County and resided on his valuable farm in Liberty township until 1894, when he settled at Ohio City. For the past 52 years Mr. Boltzell has been a member of the Odd Fellows.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore have four children, viz.: Samuel, Paul, Hazen and Marcus. The family belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church at Ohio City.

Fraternally, Mr. Moore is a Royal Arch Mason, a Maccabee and an Odd Fellow. In the latter organization he belongs to the Encampment, and he is financial secretary of the Ohio City lodge.

R. EVANS, one of the leading citizens of York township, and a substantial and representative farmer, resides on his fine farm of 300 acres, situated in sections 24 and 25. Mr. Evans was born in 1853, in Brown township, Franklin County, Ohio, and is a son of Richard E. and Mary (Jones) Evans.

Richard E. Evans was born in 1816, in Montgomeryshire, Wales, and died on the farm now occupied by our subject, on June 4, 1890, after a long and useful life of 77 years. He married in Wales, and his wife died in 1882. In 1845 he emigrated to America, and settled first in the vicinity of Columbus, Ohio, but in 1854 he removed to Van Wert County, and settled in section 24, York township, taking up 170 acres of forest land, to which he subsequently added 120 acres, all choice land. For his 170 acres he paid \$3.50 per acre. As long as he was active, he continued to improve his property, and it is today one of the most valuable farms of the township. Both he and

wife were stanch in their adherence to the Welsh Presbyterian Church, and were liberal in their support. A deed is on record, bearing the date of May 8, 1855, which shows a transfer of land from Richard E. Evans and wife to Rev. Hugh Pugh, this land being in section 23,—the west one-half of the north-east one-quarter. Of their eight children, five still survive, viz.: Richard M., of Jennings township, who married Ellen Evans, and has seven children; David H., of Mercer County; and Hugh W. and J. R. (twins), the former a farmer of Ridge township, and the latter living on the homestead.

J. R. Evans was reared on the home farm and obtained his early education in the local schools. He then spent three terms at the Ohio Normal University at Ada, after which he engaged in teaching. For 20 years, off and on, he taught school in Van Wert and Allen counties, usually the winter sessions, as his summers were spent in farming. In 1893 he purchased the interests of the other heirs, and assumed control of the homestead, which now contains 300 acres. Mr. Evans has made a feature of raising fine cattle and now owns a fine herd of Polled Angus and Hereford cattle, as well as a large flock of Shropshire sheep. This land is all very productive, and Mr. Evans has a 20-acre tract, which he is certain will yield as high as 85 bushels to the acre in corn. He is a heavy stock feeder, and has met with most satisfactory success in every branch of agriculture.

In February, 1903, Mr. Evans was married to Jennie Davis, who is a daughter of John J. and Catherine (Morgan) Davis. They have one daughter, Emma, who came to them on Thanksgiving Day, 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Evans are attendants of the Welsh Presbyterian Church at Venedocia, of which she is a member.



ARTHUR HINES, M. D., one of Van Wert's leading physicians and surgeons, was born in this city, September 12, 1842, and is a son of Dr. Philip John and Relief (Morse) Hines.

Jacob Hines, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was born in Maryland and owned a plantation and slaves. The latter he freed before the opening of the Civil war. His life between 1840 and 1850 was passed in Van Wert County. He died in 1874, aged 97 years. His children were: Mrs. W. Barker, of Washington, D. C.; Philip John, father of our subject; and Johanna R., deceased.

Philip John Hines, the only son of Jacob and Susannah Hines, was born August 11, 1815, at Fredericksburg, Maryland. His father was a government official for a number of years and the family resided at Washington, where Philip John was educated both in literature and medicine, completing his medical education in the University of Maryland where he was graduated in 1837. His early medical reading was done with the well-known Washington physician, Dr. Thomas Miller, long since passed away, who had been the attending physician of many of the Presidents of the United States. In 1838 Dr. Hines came to Ohio, remaining for a short period at Bucyrus, but settling permanently in the little village of Van Wert, which at that time had but lately emerged from the forest. Dr. Hines not only taught school and practiced medicine in those early days, but he took a leading part in public matters. He was one of the committee appointed in 1839 to convey the county records from Willshire to Van Wert, when the latter place became the county seat. In 1847, and again in 1848, he was elected a member of the State Assembly, and some years later served as clerk, as auditor and as coroner of Van Wert County. From 1852 to 1856, under the

administration of President Pierce, he served as postmaster at Van Wert. In 1849 he went to California, but returned to Van Wert in 1852, resuming his place in the county's public life and taking up his practice. He was the pioneer physician of Van Wert County, and continued to practice here until 1869. From that time until his death, September 12, 1884, he engaged in the drug business. He established the first drug store in Van Wert and possessed in the highest degree the confidence of this community as to his professional attainments and as to his uprightness as a man and citizen.

On March 6, 1841, he was united in marriage with Relief Morse, who had come from New York to teach the first school established at Van Wert. She died October 20, 1886. Dr. and Mrs. Hines had six children, viz.: J. Arthur, of Van Wert; Mary A., wife of W. W. Hillerman, of Springfield, Ohio; Robert, deceased; Sarah A., deceased; John B.; and C. E., of Van Wert. Our subject's grandparents and his parents were all consistent supporters of the Methodist Episcopal Church, their membership at Van Wert.

Under his capable father, J. Arthur Hines prepared for his medical career, and in the local schools for his higher literary training. In 1859 he entered the Columbian National College, at Washington; but the college building, in the earlier years of the Civil war, was taken for hospital purposes, and the young man returned to Van Wert. In 1866 he entered Georgetown University, where he was graduated from the medical department. He naturally returned to his native place, where he has been engaged in the practice of his profession ever since, making a specialty of the diseases of women and children. He has served as county physician and also as pension examiner.

On September 6, 1874, Dr. J. Arthur Hines was married to Elizabeth J. Hays, who was born in New York, April 22, 1857, and is a daughter of James and Elmira (Lown) Hays. They have two children, Frank H. and Mary Eva. Dr. and Mrs. Hines are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His fraternal associations are with the Masons and the Odd Fellows. He is a valued member of the Ohio State Medical Society and the American Medical Association.



GEORGE WASHINGTON ROUSH, one of the prominent and influential citizens of Middlepoint, belongs to one of the pioneer families of this section of the State. He is an honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic, being one of the surviving heroes of the great Civil war, the results of which secured to the present generation the peace and prosperity they enjoy. Mr. Roush was born in Hocking County, Ohio, January 15, 1831, and is a son of William and Susanna (Meyers) Roush.

The Roush family is of German extraction, but for generations has been loyally American. Our subject not only bears an honored military name, but he comes of military ancestry. His paternal great-grandfather took part in the War of the Revolution, as a soldier in the patriot army. His uncle, Joseph Roush, served with equal patriotism in the War of 1812. Mr. Roush and a younger brother proved their loyalty to the old flag by becoming members of the Union Army in 1862. The latter gave up his life in defense of his principles, dying before Vicksburg, after the brave attack made by his company on the out-posts. He was a member of the 114th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf.

William Roush, father of our subject, was

born in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, and was about 12 years of age when his parents removed to Hocking County, Ohio. There he grew to manhood. He was married in Fairfield County, to Susanna Meyers, who was also born in Pennsylvania. When she was four years old she came to Ohio with her parents, who located in Fairfield County. After her marriage she accompanied Mr. Roush to his home in Hocking County, where he owned a farm of 80 acres, on which our subject, the eldest of their nine children, was born.

George W. Roush attended the district schools and assisted his father in farming until he was of age. In 1853 he married, and two years later, removed with his wife to Marion County, Illinois, where he had purchased 80 acres of timberland. When he visited the land, he discovered its undesirability as a home, and after remaining for 11 months in Illinois traded the property for a small sum of money and a good team of horses. The latter he utilized in returning to Ohio. In 1856 he traded the team for 40 acres of wild land in Washington township, Van Wert County. There were many disadvantages about this property, much of it, like other portions, being swampy and subject to overflow. He remained here for three years, making the first clearing and building a cabin; but he discovered that the property was about knee deep in water the greater part of the year, and therefore took advantage of the first opportunity to dispose of it.

Mr. Roush then bought 80 acres of land located in the southwest part of Putnam County. The first few seasons on the new farm were almost as discouraging as on the old one, beginning with the necessity of cutting a road through swamp and woodland in order to reach the place. In many places the water was so high that it covered the wagon-beds.

However, Mr. Roush and family lived on this farm for 22 years, conditions improving year by year, under his persistent industry. It was a wild place at first, a two-days journey by ox-team from Delphos; surrounded on every side by dense woods in which wolves howled all night, frequently visiting the lonely little cabin. Mr. Roush succeeded in clearing all this farm with the exception of a few acres, and erected here a comfortable home and made many substantial improvements. In 1881 he sold the Putnam County farm for the sum of \$4,000, and then removed to Jackson township, Van Wert County, where he purchased a farm of 120 acres, paying \$3,000. This land also proved subject to overflow, and Mr. Roush calculates that he spent fully \$400 in ditching before he could put in any crop. On this property he erected a substantial barn and a handsome resident which cost fully \$1,000. He became a large raiser of horses, doing more in this line than in cattle raising. Subsequently he sold 40 acres in order to improve the rest of his farm and here he resided for 22 years. In 1899 he sold this property, which he had made a very desirable one, to John Swander, for \$4,000. By this time his children had left the old home, three of them having passed away, and the other three having homes of their own, and Mr. Roush decided to settle at Middlepoint and enjoy the relaxation due one who had lived so busy and so successful a life.

George W. Roush became a Union soldier on August 18, 1862, enlisting at Delphos, in Company F, 118th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf. He entered the army as a private, but was subsequently promoted to the rank of corporal. Before being honorably discharged on July 2, 1865, this loyal, farmer-soldier had fought in 22 battles and participated in 35 engagements. He was never absent from his company during this long period, with the exception of three

days, when, under orders, he remained in a school building recuperating after an unusually wearisome march. The regimental records prove that the gallant 118th Ohio traveled 12,000 miles, and it must be recalled that a large portion of this was through mountain districts, swamps and morasses and included the fording of rivers, often when the weather was at the freezing point, probably one half of this distance being traveled on foot.

Corporal Roush served first in Eastern Tennessee under General Burnside, and later under other distinguished commanders. Later he came under General Sherman's command, but his regiment was sent to General Thomas when Sherman started on his memorable "March to the Sea." The campaign of General Thomas was brilliant enough and, from commander to the humblest private, won merited admiration. After the dispersion of Hood's army, the regiment was sent to Cincinnati, then to Columbus, from there to Washington and then on to Fort Fisher. It assisted in the capture of Fort Anderson, where his division had the honor of planting the flag on the ramparts. On Washington's birthday, 1865, the regiment crossed Cape Fear River and entered the city of Wilmington, North Carolina. A few days of rest prepared them for the three days' weary march through mud and water to Kingston. At this point the command joined General Sherman and they were in the vicinity of Raleigh, North Carolina, on the way to Richmond, when the joyful news reached them of the surrender of General Lee and then of the surrender of General Johnston. The regiment entered into quarters at Raleigh, where they were stationed when the sad news was flashed over the wires of the assassination of President Lincoln. From Raleigh the regiment was marched to Salls-

bury, thence to Cleveland and from there to Columbus. Mr. Roush draws a pension of \$30 per month.

On January 13, 1853, Mr. Roush was married to Mary Ann Davis, a daughter of Jabe and Jane (McCoy) Davis, of Guernsey County, Ohio. They have had six children, namely: Sarah Jane, born December 24, 1854, who married William Tong, of Delphos, now deceased—she and her 10 children reside near Marion, Indiana; William Leander, born February 4, 1856, who married Emma White of Delphos, has four children and resides at Toledo; Hugh Clarence, born February 4, 1858, who married Angenetta Hamilton, of Washington township, and has three children; Margaret Ann, born July 2, 1860, who died November 24, 1881; Mary Elizabeth, born June 12, 1863, who married Reuben Timbers, of Washington township, and died at Fort Scott, Kansas, July 7, 1889, leaving three children; and John Fletcher, born May 2, 1866, who died December 28, 1879.

Mr. Roush reared his children carefully, giving them good, common school advantages, and always looking after their welfare. He is a man of substance in his community, owning over 18 acres of valuable land adjoining his home at Middlepoint, on the west, and a number of houses and lots in the town which are proving good investments. Had he not been, through life, a man of kind heart and sympathetic nature, he would not have lost a small fortune. On a number of occasions he has been led to endorse notes in order to assist friends out of difficulty, with the result that in the last 22 years he has been obliged to pay bail debts amounting to \$2,000.

Mr. Roush is one of the leading members of the Presbyterian Church at Middlepoint, and for some years has served as one of the

trustees. Few citizens of the county are more entitled to the esteem of their fellow-citizens than is George Washington Roush.

LAFAYETTE SNYDER was for many years one of the highly esteemed residents of Liberty township, where his death occurred in 1888.

He had the distinction of being the first male child born in the village of Lafayette, Madison County, Ohio, and was named for his birthplace. His parents were Jacob Frederick and Christina (Arres) Snyder, natives of Germany. By trade the father was a blacksmith and he followed that occupation for some 16 years at Lafayette, Ohio. He then moved to Mercer County and settled on a farm of 41 acres, which is situated just across the public highway from our late subject's home, this highway being the line between Mercer and Van Wert counties. Mr. Snyder's health was poor and he survived his removal to Mercer County but a few years, and at his death left a widow with one son and five daughters, heavy responsibilities thus falling upon the son (Lafayette) when he was little over 16 years of age.

Lafayette Snyder was a well-informed man, having been educated in the district schools of Madison County. He was considered an excellent farmer and, during his long residence in Van Wert County, enjoyed the unwavering respect of his fellow-citizens.

On September 26, 1860, Mr. Snyder was married to Milberry Sidenbender, who is a daughter of Joseph and Ann (Van Gundy) Sidenbender. Mrs. Snyder was born in 1837 in Mercer County, Ohio, her father being a native of Ross County, Ohio, where he subsequently married, immediately afterward

moving to Mercer County, near the Van Wert County line. There he entered 160 acres of land, reared his eight children and died in 1880. The mother of Mrs. Snyder died February 20, 1898, aged 89 years, 4 months and 14 days, having been born October 4, 1808, near Chillicothe, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Lafayette Snyder were the parents of these children: Willis, who married Mary Ayers and died in 1899, leaving three children; Annie, who married Alonzo Bechtol, and resides at Elida, Ohio; Joseph, a graduate of the Ohio Northern University at Ada, who is a well-known teacher; Margaret, who resides at Lima; Lillian A., who lives at home; Clyde, a teacher in the Rockford (Ohio) High School, being a graduate of the Ohio Northern University at Ada, who married Anna Hawk; and Sophia, who married Charles Temple and has three children—Helen Lucinda, Carl Lafayette and an infant.

Mrs. Snyder resides on the old family homestead, which is situated in Liberty township, directly across the road from Mercer County. The farm contains 115 acres, 15 of which are in Mercer County, and the remainder in section 34, Liberty township, Van Wert County. Mrs. Snyder is a member of the Church of God.

JOHAN BENJAMIN WILSON, M. D., the genial and popular physician of Scott, was born in Ross County, Ohio, October 31, 1858, and is a son of George and Eliza J. (Woods) Wilson. Both parents were natives of Ross County, where they grew up and were married. The father was born in 1835 and the mother in 1832. They now reside in Paulding County, near Scott, and enjoy the satisfaction of seeing both

their children (they have but two) occupying prominent positions in the medical profession. Richard S. Wilson, M. D., the brother of our subject has been practicing in Berne, Indiana, for about 21 years, having commenced to practice before he graduated from the Fort Wayne Medical College in 1890.

John Benjamin Wilson spent the early years of his life, up to his 15th, on the farm in Ross County. His parents at that time coming to Middlepoint and taking a farm nearby, he engaged in agricultural pursuits until he had reached his 23rd year. Having received a course in the district schools, he took preparatory work in the graded schools of Clinton County and, in 1883, began the study of Medicine in the Fort Wayne Medical College. Graduating from this institution in March, 1889, he began the same month to practice in Scott, where he has since remained. Dr. Wilson has been most successful in his practice and has, virtually, all the work within a large radius of Scott. Since he located here, doctors have come and gone, but Dr. Wilson kept on his way, adding new patients to the already long list. When he first opened his office in Scott, the village had four physicians. Now besides Dr. Wilson, there is only one who located in the village about two years ago.

Dr. Wilson was married in 1882 to Susan A. Stiverson, whose home was near Delphos. Mrs. Wilson is a daughter of Joel and Elizabeth J. (Roush) Stiverson, and has been a help and inspiration to the Doctor in his arduous work. They have had four children: Washington H. and Ida May, both of whom live at home; Jessie Elizabeth, who died at the age of three years; and Russell O., who died in infancy. Dr. Wilson owns a good farm of 120 acres located near Scott, in Paulding County. His residence was erected by him in 1903, and is at once comfortable and attractive in appear-

ance. Dr. Wilson is a Democrat, and was pension examiner under Cleveland's last administration. He was coroner for a time, is president of the present School Board, has served on the Council and as mayor of Scott. He served as trustee of Washington township before locating at Scott, and has always taken a prominent part in the good government of the village. Dr. Wilson is a member of Lodge No. 791, I. O. O. F.; and Lodge No. 102, Improved Order of Red Men.



WILLIAM E. FRYE was born in Delaware County, Ohio, November 28, 1856, and passed into the higher life April 25, 1900. He possessed to a remarkable degree the esteem and confidence of his fellow-men, and never, by word or deed, was that confidence betrayed. He was known as a leading agriculturist of Jackson township, and an honorable upright man. His parents were William and Caroline (Fegley) Frye, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Delaware County.

Mr. Frye spent his early years in Delaware County, and was accorded all the advantages of a good education. Leaving the public school, he spent three years in the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, and then turned his attention to farming. When he was 20 years of age, he came to Van Wert County and made his home here until his death. He was always devoted to agricultural pursuits and engaged in that occupation here. In 1882 he purchased a tract of 40 acres in section 33, Jackson township, to which an adjoining 40 acre tract was added at a later time, and the entire farm was improved and cultivated.

September 15, 1883, Mr. Frye was married

to Allie Reed, daughter of James C. Reed, an agriculturist of Hoaglin township, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume. This union resulted in the birth of one son, H. Glenn, who was born August 2, 1887, and who with his widowed mother, resides on and carries on the farm. Two children are deceased: Myrtle, who died at the age of 18 months, and a son, who died at birth. Mr. Frye was a Republican and was elected for two terms as assessor of his township, but resigned after his second election. He was a prominent member of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church of Jackson township, as is also Mrs. Frye, and for many years was class-leader in the church. He was also connected with the I. O. O. F. lodge at Middlepoint.

JAMES K. P. JOHNSON, one of the prosperous and progressive agriculturists of Hoaglin township, residing on his farm in section 34, is a native of the Buckeye State, having been born in Butler County on November 19, 1844. He is a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Mustard) Johnson, prominent residents of that county, of which they were both natives.

In Butler County our subject received his education in the public schools, and was reared to manhood. He took up the occupation of a farmer, and followed that work in that county until the year 1870. In that year he came to Van Wert County and engaged in farming in Ridge township for about 26 years, coming to Hoaglin township and his present farm in 1896.

On August 26, 1869, Mr. Johnson was joined in marriage to Emma Yeakle, who was born in Butler County, Ohio, February 28, 1848, and is a daughter of Michael and

Susanna (Troutman) Yeakle. Her parents were early settlers of Butler County, the former coming from Pennsylvania and the latter from North Carolina. Eight children blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, seven of whom are living and reside in this county. The record is as follows: Harry, deceased; Charles D., of Hoaglin township; Susie, wife of Elmer E. Allen, of Hoaglin township; Willard, of Ridge township; Nellie, wife of Charles Barringer, of Pleasant township; Herman J., of Hoaglin township; and Alonzo G. and Ruth, both of Hoaglin township. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are members of the Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church, to which they contribute liberally both of their time and means, and they are among the first families of the section. Mr. Johnson is a Democrat in politics.

GEORGE W. SILL, one of the pioneer settlers of York township, where he owns one of the best farms and finest residences in the southeastern section of the county, was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, in 1843, and is a son of Jeremiah and Mary H. (Fryer) Sill.

Both parents of our esteemed subject were born in Pennsylvania and were probably of German extraction. In 1848 they located at Pittsburg, during the period of the construction of the Pennsylvania Railroad. In 1855 Jeremiah Sill moved to Washington County, Ohio, by way of the canal, and two years later to Mercer County. The conditions then prevalent in Mercer County—the few settlers and the swampy character of much of the land—determined Mr. Sill to seek still further for a desirable place in which to establish a home. In 1864 he settled on the present homestead of our subject in section 35, York township, Van

Wert County, buying 40 acres of land, while the latter bought an adjoining 40 acres. Here Jeremiah Sill died on September 29, 1875, and he was survived five years by his wife. The surviving children of Jeremiah Sill and wife are: Phoebe (Denney), of Mercer County, born in 1841; George W., of this sketch; and Francis Marion, of Union township, Mercer County, who married Dora Bradford. Both Jeremiah Sill and wife were worthy, virtuous people, and lived according to their religious professions, being devoted members of the Church of God.

George W. Sill was 14 years of age when he accompanied his parents to Mercer County. His educational opportunities were meager, but long association with people and participation in notable public events have instructed him more than year of attendance in the school room. He accepted inevitable conditions and, to the limit of his strength, assisted his father. In 1862 he enlisted in the Union Army, from Mercer County, entering Company E, 118th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., under Capt. William Kennedy, of Auglaize County, which regiment was attached to the Second Brigade, Second Division, 23rd Army Corps, under the command of Gen. John H. Schofield. The records of the Ohio regiments show how faithfully the 118th Regiment marched, fought and conquered on many a hotly contested field, and in the long series of important engagements Mr. Sill bravely performed a soldier's duty.

The siege of Knoxville was the first important battle in which Mr. Sill took part, and then rapidly followed Mossy Creek (in which 47 members of this regiment lost their lives), Rocky Face Ridge, Buzzard's Roost, Resaca (in which battle the 118th lost 47 per cent of those engaged), Lost Mountain, Pine Mountain, New Hope, Dallas and Kenesaw Mountain. Prior to the last mentioned battle, Mr.

Sill had passed through all dangers unharmed; but in this battle, which took place on June 27, 1864, he was wounded in the right arm, and had seven bullet holes in his clothes. In this battle a brother was also killed, who was a member of the 46th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., under Captain Dunathan. After his recovery, Mr. Sill rejoined his regiment and was sent to the rear, later participating in the battles of Franklin and Nashville. From Nashville the regiment was sent to the North Carolina coast, where its good work was shown in its regimental colors being the first to float over the fortifications at Fort Anderson, and it entered the city of Wilmington on Washington's birthday, 1865. Mr. Sill also took part in the fight at Kingston, North Carolina, after which his regiment joined General Sherman's forces at Goldsboro, followed Johnston to Raleigh and was present at the surrender of the Confederate general. Mr. Sill was honorably discharged from the service at Salisbury, North Carolina, June 14, 1865, and was mustered out at Cleveland on July 8, 1865, reaching home on the following day.

At that time, the land which Mr. Sill and his father had purchased was a totally unimproved tract, swampy to a degree and heavily wooded. He married late in 1865, and built a round log house on the land, 18 by 24 feet in dimensions, and settled in it on April 16, 1866; his neighbors assisted him in rolling the logs for this dwelling. He immediately set about improving the place, his beginning being the digging of open ditches for drainage, this long preceding the extensive tiling which he has since done. In 1856 he built a log stable, which he replaced in 1877 by a good frame barn. In 1902 this was destroyed by fire, with its contents. It was immediately rebuilt, with dimensions of 62 by 38 feet. The family continued to reside in the log house until 1885.

when a fine modern residence was built, after plans made by Mr. Sill. It is fitted with equipments for comfort which one only looks for in a city home.

Mr. Sill has carried on general farming, and has raised many horses and cattle, and a great deal of stock. In 1893 a test drill was made on his land for oil, and it was found that oil flowed freely 50 feet above the derrick, the well producing 250 barrels a day. It was drilled in November and kept up a fine flow for several months. The following April it was producing 75 barrels per day. There are now three producing wells on the place, and gas is produced in a sufficient quantity for domestic purposes. This farm is considered the model one of York township.

In December, 1865, Mr. Sill was married to Elizabeth Slentz, who is a daughter of Eli and Mary Ann (Shulenburg) Slentz. Eli Slentz was born in Pennsylvania. In 1854 he settled in York township, where he followed the trade of carpenter and cabinetmaker all his active life. His death occurred in 1879, and that of his wife some 18 months later. They had 12 children, eight of whom grew to maturity. Mrs. Sill was reared to young womanhood amid pioneer conditions, and she remembers many occasions when she assisted in the harvest field and in her day could swing a cradle with as much effect as could her brothers. She was reared to all the homely duties which pertained to the housekeeping of her youth, and both before and after marriage transformed the pulled flax into clothing for herself and for neighbors who were not so thrifty. She has a local reputation as a fine housekeeper. She has seen the whole country develop, and remembers when the highway which now passes by her beautiful home, was only a cow path through the woods. She recalls how she had to climb over logs in order

to attend church. From her girlhood she has been a devoted member of the Church of God. Mr. Sill is one of the elders in the church, which is situated about a mile from their home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sill are most highly esteemed by all who know them, and they are especial objects of love and veneration among the young people of the church.

Mr. and Mrs. Sill have two daughters and an adopted daughter. These are: Rebecca Elizabeth, who married Dr. Jacob H. Goodwin, president of the Farmers' Exchange Bank of Grover Hill, Ohio, and has two daughters—Mary Elizabeth and Mildred; Mary Euthenia, who married Dr. Ezra Burnett, of Delphos, and has one daughter—Edith Rebecca, aged 12 years; and Osa M. The last named, who is a daughter of David Hughes, lived with Mr. and Mrs. Sill from the age of 10 years to 23 years, when she was married, in May 1903, to William Swigert; they now live at Elgin and have one son—Emory George. She received a careful Christian training with Mr. and Mrs. Sill. Their home has always been one open to religious worship, and on many occasions conversions have taken place there. They are passing the evening of life surrounded by all that is calculated to make this season most enjoyable.




RUSH R. RICHISON, M. D., a rising young physician and surgeon of Van Wert, was born in Logan County, this State, November 11, 1879. His parents are Jasper N. and Anna (Carlo) Richison, the father being a highly respected merchant of that county. The family consisted of four children. Rush R. Richison attended school at Athens and then studied medicine in the Ohio Medical University, Columbus,

graduating from that institution in April, 1904.


Coming immediately to Van Wert, Dr. Richison entered into a partnership with Dr. Perry, on April 7, 1904, and began the practice of his profession. This partnership was discontinued on the 20th of the following September, since which time our subject has practiced by himself and is building up a large following. His offices at No. 118 South Washington street consist of six rooms, and are well equipped for his work and most pleasantly situated.

Dr. Richison was married to Nellie B. McMillen, a daughter of Joseph McMillen. They have one child—Pauline. They are members of the Presbyterian Church and are active in both church and social circles. Dr. Richison is a Republican. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Masons and the Eagles.

RANCIS E. REED, M. D., physician and surgeon at Van Wert, is a young man widely and favorably known in this county, where he was born and grew to manhood and where he has a host of warm friends who appreciate his manliness and worth. He is a son of William I. and Fannie B. (Staman) Reed, and was born January 26, 1879. William I. Reed, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume, is one of the prosperous and most extensive farmers of Van Wert County, and also one of its efficient commissioners.

Francis E. Reed first attended the common school and then entered the Ohio Medical University, Columbus, from which he graduated May 3, 1905. He has but recently opened his offices at No. 238 West Main street, but is already establishing a good prac-

tice, bringing to his work an energy and ability which are sure to win success. He is thoroughly conscientious in his work; skilled and thoroughly at home in all the approved methods applied in surgery and medicine, and his friends predict for him a brilliant future. The Doctor is living with his parents on their farm near Van Wert. In politics he is an ardent Democrat.

AMUEL ANDERSON BROWN, for many years one of prominent and substantial farmers of Liberty township, now lives in comfortable retirement at Ohio City, where he is held in high esteem as a good citizen, and also as a veteran of the Civil war. Mr. Brown was born in Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, in 1843, and is a son of Robert and Margaret (Wright) Brown.

The parents of Mr. Brown, who also were natives of Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, came to Van Wert County, Ohio, in 1844, settling in York township. Their children numbered 12, six sons and six daughters. Of these the following survive: Elizabeth, wife of Peter Moore, of Michigan; Abraham, of Dakota; W. J., of Dakota; J. C., of Dakota; Nancy, of Mercer County, Ohio; and Samuel Anderson, of this sketch.

Samuel A. Brown was but 15 months old when his parents brought him to Ohio, and he has given his adopted State good reasons to be proud of him. When but 18 years of age he left home to answer the call for defenders of his country, enlisting in September, 1861 in Company A, 46th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf. He was mustered in at Camp Lyon, where several months were spent in drilling and preparing for the dangers to come; but about February his regiment was sent to Camp Dennison.

thence by boat to Paducah, Kentucky, and with the whole brigade was sent to Pittsburg Landing. At the terrible battle of Shiloh, the young soldier had his first realization of real war; then quickly followed the siege of Corinth; then Vicksburg, after which the regiment was sent to Jackson, Mississippi. From there his regiment returned to Black River and thence to the rear of Vicksburg, where it remained until September, when it marched to Chattanooga and took part in the battle of Mission Ridge. The command to which Mr. Brown belonged was then sent to relieve Burnside and went on to Scottsboro, Alabama.

It was at this point that Mr. Brown, having completed his first enlistment, again entered the service of his country, contracting for three more years or until the close of the war. Again he took up the duties of a brave, cheerful, loyal soldier, marched with his companions through that memorable campaign which extended from Chattanooga to Atlanta. At Resaca he received a wound which placed him in a hospital at Louisville for a long period. He was then sent back to Camp Dennison, and it was not until his regiment had reached Raleigh that he was able to rejoin it and march to Washington to take part in the glorious review in that city. He was mustered out of the service July 22, 1865, at Louisville, Kentucky.

After the close of his veteran service, Mr. Brown returned to Van Wert County and became engaged in farming and stock-raising in which he continued until about a year ago, when he removed to Ohio City. In the spring of 1867 he settled on 80 acres of land, situated in the virgin woods, not a stick of timber having been removed. His brother had purchased it for him with money he had saved while he was in the army. The first trees felled upon the property were those with which he built

his cabin. After clearing all but 17 acres of the tract, he sold it and bought a farm of 240 acres in Van Wert County and 40 in Mercer County and cleared about 40 of this. He is considered one of the most substantial men of Liberty township.

In 1866 Mr. Brown was married to Maria Kesler, who is a daughter of John Kesler, who came to Van Wert County in 1838. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have nine children, namely: Lewis, a farmer of Liberty township; John W., at home; Rosa, wife of William M. Medaugh, of Willshire township; Della, wife of J. G. Medaugh, of Ohio City; Edith, at home; Nancy, wife of Russell Straw, of Pleasant township; Susan, at home; and Gaylord and Fernie, who are attending school.


Mr. Brown is a member of the Mount Zion United Brethren Church at Mount Zion. Although never a politician, he is identified with the Republican party. Mr. Brown has always been an active citizen, and at all times matters pertaining to the welfare of Liberty township have received his careful attention.

JOHN W. KECK, who resides on a fine farm of 80 acres in section 9, Liberty township, is one of the successful farmers of the township. He was born July 6, 1861 in Paulding County, Ohio, and is a son of John C. and Amy (Rollins) Keck.

John C. Keck was a native of Germany and when an infant was brought to America by his parents, Jacob Keck and wife. The family first settled in Crawford County, Ohio, and later moved to Paulding County where Jacob Keck entered land.

John W. Keck was reared and educated in Paulding County, and lived with his par-

ents, who were located on land that as has been stated, had been entered by Jacob Keck, his grandfather. When 30 years of age, our subject was married to Virginia Slane, a daughter of Thomas Slane, and they have one child—Hazel, born July 6, 1890. Mr. Keck moved to Van Wert County one year after his marriage and located near Venedocia, later moving to his present home purchased in February, 1898. Mr. Keck joined the United Brethren Church when he was 16 years old and was a member of that denomination until his removal to Liberty township, when he united with the Methodist Church, being at the present time a member of the North Liberty Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he is a class leader and superintendent of the Sunday-school.

EORGE A. HEIST, one of the prominent citizens of Van Wert County, formerly a director of the County Infirmary, has lived in his comfortable residence at Middlepoint since 1905, but still retains 40 acres of fine farming land in Washington township. Mr. Heist was born in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, October 10, 1843, and is a son of Joseph G. and Mary (Aimon) Heist.

George Heist, the grandfather of George A. Heist, was born in Germany, and emigrated to America and settled in Pennsylvania before his son Joseph G. was born. The latter married Mary Aimon who was also born in Pennsylvania, and they reared these children: Keller; Sarah; George A.; David; Harriet and Mary (twins), the former of whom married Charles Childs and the latter, Edward Mottershead; and Josephine, who married Fred Stellwagen.

Until he was 22 years of age, Mr. Heist remained at his old home in Pennsylvania, where he obtained his education and became a first-class farmer. In order to see something of the world and to decide upon a place in which to make a permanent residence, Mr. Heist came to Ohio and settled in Pickaway County. In July, 1872, Mr. Heist came to Van Wert County. For 14 years he lived on a rented farm in Washington township, and subsequently bought a farm of 80 acres. For 15 years he also operated a portable sawmill. In 1905 he retired from active life and settled at Middlepoint, where he has many acquaintances and numerous warm friends.

Mr. Heist was married in Pickaway County, Ohio, to Maria Stout, on June 15, 1871. Mrs. Heist is a daughter of Benjamin and Juda (Bowers) Stout, old settlers of Pickaway County, but natives of Berks County, Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Heist have had these children: Burton, residing in Washington township, who married Lizzie McCullom, of Van Wert, and has two children—Gail Willard and Leona Georgia; Cora Edna, who died at the of six years; Alexander, who married Bertha Pollock, and has two children—Lola and Mildred; Minnie Myrtle, who married Harry Fling and has one child—Leila; Keller, who resides at Fort Wayne and works as a fireman in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad; Grover Cleveland, who married Laverne Cover and has one child—Marcile Viola; and Clyde, who died in infancy.

Mr. Heist has always taken an intelligent interest in public affairs, and has been very active in the ranks of the Democratic party. Although the county is strongly Republican, he was elected county infirmary director, and served with efficiency for a term of three years. By the advice of his friends he became a candidate for reelection, and was defeated by but

14 votes in the whole county. This speaks very favorably as to Mr. Heist's record as a public official. He also served several years as township trustee and for a long time was also president of the township school board.

DANIEL D. BAILEY, an enterprising and prosperous farmer residing in section 6, Jackson township, came to Van Wert County in 1882 and purchased the 80-acre farm upon which he still resides. He was born in the adjoining county of Allen on December 14, 1852, and is a son of Jonathan and Mary (Davis) Bailey. The father was a native of New Jersey, but was an early settler of Jackson township, Allen County, where he died some 15 years ago in his 83rd year.

Daniel D. Bailey engaged in farming in Allen County and later in Putnam County, finally coming to Van Wert. In addition to the homestead, he owns a farm of 40 acres in Washington township, Paulding County. On August 8, 1880, he was married to Eliza J. Harpster, a native of Monterey township, Putnam County, and a daughter of the late John and Elizabeth Harpster. Mrs. Harpster is a lady who has passed the 79th milestone of life, and is spending her declining years in Delphos. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Daniel D. Bailey, four of whom survive—Charles D., Jennie P., Grace and James M.—all living at home with their parents. The family are members of Middle Creek Christian Church, of which Mr. Bailey has served as deacon and trustee. He is a Republican in politics, and when a young man in Allen County was for a period of five years,

a member of Company E, 11th Regiment Infantry, Ohio National Guard, part of the time being sergeant.



WILLIAM T. WISHER,* a well-known agriculturist and horse-breeder of Jackson township, is a leading citizen of this county, where he has resided for a period of 30 years. He is a son of James G. and Sarah A. (Evans) Wisher, natives of Ohio, who settled in Fairfield County at an early day. There our subject was born May 16, 1848, and there he was also reared and educated.

On January 9, 1861, William T. Wisher enlisted in Company H, 62nd Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served during the entire Civil war, not being discharged until July, 1865. At the time of his enlistment he had not yet reached his 13th year, and he enjoys the distinction of having been the youngest soldier in the ranks of the Union Army. He fought in a number of engagements—notable among them being the battles of Winchester and Fort Wagner—his four and one-half years of service being filled with activity. He was but little past 17 years of age when he returned to Fairfield County, where he remained about 11 years and engaged in farming pursuits. In 1876 he moved to Jackson township, Van Wert County, of which he has since been an esteemed resident. In 1888 he purchased his present farm of 40 acres in section 8, and, in addition to general farming, engaged in raising a standard breed of draft and road horses. During the 18 years which he has devoted to this work, he has established an excellent reputation as a horse breeder, his animals always commanding a good market.

On May 25, 1873, Mr. Wisher was mar-

ried to Sarah A. Brenneman, daughter of Jacob and Caroline (Ogden) Brenneman, prominent citizens of Allen County, Ohio, where the ceremony was performed. The following children were born to this union, all but two of whom reside near the parental home in Jackson township: James G.; Fannie D., wife of W. M. Morrison; Charles E. and William W., of Allen County; Daisy M., wife of Frank Dunlap; Jennie, wife of David Dunlap; David H.; Elsie L. and Mary B., the last two residing at home. Mr. Wisner is a member of Zion Christian Union Church, of Jackson township, and for a number of years was class leader.



L. SHAFFER,* who occupies a prominent position as an educator in Van Wert County, now serving his third term as superintendent of the schools of Ohio City, was born in Liberty township, this county, in August, 1874, and is a son of John and Martha (Ayers) Shaffer.

George Shaffer, his grandfather, was a native of Germany, and one of the earliest settlers in Van Wert County. After locating in this section of the State, he entered a large body of government land, where John Shaffer, our subject's father, was born and where he lived until his death in 1900. John Shaffer married Martha Ayers, a native of Ashland County, Ohio, and they had a family of three sons and two daughters, viz.: John, who is with the Pullman Company at Chicago; Fred, who is foreman at the Solar oil refinery in Lima; C. L., of this sketch; Minnie, wife of Dr. A. C. Musgrove, of Ohio City; and Flossie, who resides at home.

C. L. Shaffer attended the schools of Liberty township and those of Ohio City, subsequently entering the scientific department of

the Ohio Normal University at Ada, where he was graduated in 1901. Previously he had taught several terms of school in Liberty township, and afterward was placed in charge of the grammar schools at Scott, Ohio, later being made superintendent of the village schools. When he was called to take charge of the schools at Ohio City, he resigned his position at Scott, and since 1903 has been located here. His work speaks for itself in the added interest shown by the pupils and the higher standard of instruction which he has maintained. It is a position of much responsibility, and to successfully fill it requires a man of tact, education and culture. Mr. Shaffer has the hearty support of the best element in the city, and has every reason to feel highly gratified at the results of his professional work.


In 1902 C. L. Shaffer was married to Myrtie Ann Koogle, who is a daughter of Oliver Koogle, one of the leading and prosperous farmers of Liberty township and an early settler in this section. Mrs. Shaffer died May 9, 1904. She was a graduate of the Ohio City High Schools, and a lady of culture and beautiful character. Fraternally Mr. Shaffer is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Home Guards of America. He belongs to the Church of God at Ohio City and has official connection with this religious body.



DAVID O. DAVIS,* one of the most progressive young agriculturists of Washington township, resides on his finely improved farm of 175 acres located in section 31. He is the youngest son of David O. and Anna (Alben) Davis, and was born May 14, 1874, on the farm which he now owns and occupies.

David O. Davis, Sr., came to this country with his parents when eight years of age. In 1864, he and his wife moved from Jackson County, Ohio, to Van Wert County, where he purchased the farm which his son now owns. Here the father spent the remainder of his life engaged in farming, passing away in 1895. His widow still resides on the family homestead with her son.


David O. Davis, the subject of this sketch, has always lived in the locality where he was born, being educated in the schools of Washington township. He has never been married and is a member of the Horeb Welsh Calvinistic Church.

RANK HOFFMANN,* one of the successful agriculturists of Washington township, residing on his farm of 60 acres located in section 11, was born near his present home August 15, 1851, and is a son of Henry and Mary Hoffmann.

Henry Hoffmann and wife were both natives of Hanover, Germany. They came to America in 1846 and were married in Glandorf, Putnam County, Ohio, afterward removing to Van Wert County. Mr. Hoffmann worked on the Miami and Erie Canal; then bought 40 acres of land and settled in Washington township. He continued to purchase more land, and at the time of his death in 1867, was the owner of about 200 acres of land. Mrs. Hoffmann died in 1890, leaving three children—Mathias, who lives in Arkansas; and David and Frank, both residents of Washington township.

Frank Hoffmann, the subject of this sketch, was reared and educated in Washington township, and has always given his attention to agricultural pursuits. His farm of 60 acres

was given him by his father and is in excellent condition; in 1896 he erected his present residence, which is a large brick house of six rooms. On October 9, 1873, Mr. Hoffmann was married to Mary Friemoth, a daughter of John Conrad and Gertrude Friemoth, both natives of Germany. They have no children. Religiously they are Catholics, being members of the Church of St. John the Evangelist at Delphos. Mr. Hoffmann is a member of St. Joseph's Society.

HEODORE WROCKLAGE, JR.,* a son of one of the original settlers at Delphos, and a nephew of the town's founder, was born January 28, 1854, in Delphos, Ohio, in the house which is still his home. His father, Theodore Wrocklage, was born in Prussia, Germany, and was a son of Christian Mathias and Mary Elizabeth (Gerde-man) Wrocklage, both natives of Germany, who died at Delphos, Ohio, in 1846, one year after their arrival in this country. Of their two children, Mary Elizabeth was born August 28, 1819, in Germany, and came to America with her brother Theodore when she was 17 years of age. She was married in February, 1836, to Ferdinand Bredeick, who later became the founder of the town of Delphos. Theodore Wrocklage came to America in 1836 and in 1841 located on the Auglaize River in Putnam County, Ohio, with his brother-in-law, Ferdinand Bredeick, and the latter's family. When the present route of the Miami and Erie Canal was decided upon, the Bredeick family and Theodore Wrocklage located on the present site of Delphos in 1842. In 1845 in partnership with Bernard Esch, he established a potash and pearl-ash factory, which firm was later succeeded by that of Wrocklage & Stall-

kamp. Esch & Wrocklage also conducted one of the first general stores in the village. Thereafter until his death Theodore Wrocklage was very prominently identified with the affairs of the town. In 1846 he entered land in section 31, Marion township, Allen County, Ohio. He was one of the incorporators of the Ohio Wheel Company, founded at Toledo in 1868 and incorporated October 20, 1871, the works being removed to Delphos the following year. In 1872 he assisted in the organization of the Union Flouring Mill Company, which later became the Eagle Mills. He was one of the founders of the First National Bank of Delphos, incorporated February 16, 1863. Twenty years later the bank was reorganized as the Delphos National Bank, with Mr. Wrocklage as its president. He was also one of the first board of directors of the Fidelity Fire Insurance Company of Delphos, which was organized in August, 1875. He was elected council-

man of the village at the election in 1851 that followed the incorporation of the village on February 7th of that year. For many years thereafter he served as councilman although not continuously.

After leaving school Theodore Wrocklage, Jr., at once engaged in business at Delphos, associating himself with the lines of trade and manufacture with which his father was intimately connected. The Wrocklage interests, including those of Theodore Wrocklage, Jr., and the Wrocklage estate, are principally located in Allen County and are of large importance.

On January 10, 1900, Mr. Wrocklage was married to Rose Fetzer, a daughter of Jacob and Louise (Kelbley) Fetzer, of Seneca County, Ohio. To this union was born a child, Theodore, July 12, 1904. Mr. Wrocklage has visited quite a few sections of the United States and has also made one trip to Europe.

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